



# Mision De Candelilla

## ANGING LIVES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER

### a Palabra De Dios En El Desierto

### Recent activities

Since last November we have been very busy. We are sharing each of the events with you by photo.



On December 7<sup>th</sup> 2012 we facilitated a Well Child Clinic in Centinela in cooperation with the Piedras Negras Rotary Club. After the clinic we all met at a local restaurant for lunch.



Later in December we spent four days with members of Fredericksburg United Methodist Church celebrating Christmas in San Vicente. In this photo Judy Hutcherson is unloading gifts that her church gathered for each person in the village.



In January we facilitated 3 medical clinics. In this photo members of the Stephenville First United Methodist Church are sharing the gospel through Music during worship services in Las Norias.

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### Good News

For the past 4 years we have struggled to have enough people in our groups to staff the clinics. Many folks just would not go with us because they were fearful of the circumstances in Mexico. While I praise God for sustaining the work during this time I have to admit these times were very trying. Today it seems we have weathered the worst of these fears.

This year all of our trips have been well staffed. This not only helps our finances but it allows us to do a better job in our clinics. In addition it looks good for the remaining trips this year. The future beyond this year looks good as well.

We have received inquiries from other groups and churches. Many have expressed a desire to work with us in the future. What has led to this resurgence of interest to serving in Mexico?

On the surface, I can name a couple of things that come to my mind. The first would be that the violence in Mexico has subsided over the past 18 months or more. Also I think we have worked hard to educate folks about the extent of violence in Mexico, where it exists and where it does not exist and how cautious we are when we are in Mexico. But I think, while these issues have contributed to our success, I believe that the primary reason for this increase in participation goes much deeper.

Our God is a faithful God and he honors faithfulness in His people. One of things I have discovered amongst all of the new participants is a deeper desire for the things of God. All of the recent groups have been excellent. Our devotional time and worship time have been the best we have ever had. Each time we arrive back home from a trip we are amazed at the things we have seen God do! Why is this happening now?

See Good News page 4

*Below is a article written by one of our volunteers. This was her first trip. Listen to her impressions and think back to your first trip or perhaps think about what you are missing if you have never been with us!*

Mexico Trip March 2013

By Renee Sechrist

Mision de Candelilla – “Changing lives on both sides of the boarder”

Mision de Candelilla is a long trip in and long trip out. It involves many hours of hard work and manual labor. We visited four very small and poor villages. Each day was filled with devotional time, packing up bedding, unpacking clinic items, setting up the clinic, tearing down the clinic, meals, setting up bedding, church worship sharing, and repacking.

We had two physicians and one optometrist (Dr. Layne, Dr. Burg (AKA Poppy) and Dr. Kroeger) on the trip to see the patients in each village.

We ran urine and blood labs, EKG’s, and ultra sounds. Rebecca spent a great deal of time observing and assisting the doctors. She got to see ultrasounds of babies to be born as well as gallbladders and thyroids. She observed minor surgery procedures and was in with the emergency staff assisting the heart attack case. It is with a heavy heart that we must report that this man went home to Our Father in heaven. Rebecca was very eager to introduce herself and make friends with the people and the dogs.

Abigail spent time playing with the village children, helping wash dishes with the kitchen staff, fixed the “shower drain” in San Vicente, and counted and cut thousands of pills. Each night we had worship with the people of the village. The girls shared by singing

See First Impressions on page 4



Pastor Estevan and his wife (Juanita) along with their 5 children. Estevan has been pastor of the church in La Union for the past year

**We need your help! We are finally getting started on our new building. If you can swing a hammer give us a call.**

## Thank You!

We would like to thank all of you who support this work. We are humbled by your trust in us. We are grateful that your donations allow us to continue to follow the work that He has put our hands to.

We would like to give a special shout out to Priddy Baptist Church of Priddy, TX. In the photo below you can see us using the new EKG machine which they funded for us. Thank you to our brothers and sisters in Priddy TX!



Sara Allerkamp along with Barbara Hudson are administering an EKG to a man in Alamos De Marquez

Mark your calendar!  
**August 3<sup>rd</sup>** is  
 the date of  
**Fiesta 2013**

You will be receiving your invitation in early July. If you do not get an invitation and would like to attend please contact us at 830-997-6542 or [callerkamp@beecreek.net](mailto:callerkamp@beecreek.net)

**We need people to help set the poles, put on the roof and pour the slab. Give**

**us a call at 830-997-6542 or 830-992-9453.**



On the trip to Paso de San Antonio we were joined by eight members of the Johnson City, TX First United Methodist Church. They were also joined by Dr. Mary Martha LeBlanc from San Antonio, Linda Latham RN from Munday, TX, Dr Carol Andrus along with her husband Dallas from Roby, TX and Juan Flores of Center Point, TX. Dr. LeBlanc and Juan have been with us many times. Dr. Andrus had been with us previously several years ago. It was such a blessing to see them again! One of the members of the J.C. Church (Darlene Young) had been with us a couple of time previous to this trip.. Darlene's Christ light shines for everyone to see.

The rest of the group was all first timers. What a joy to get to know these brothers and sisters in Christ! From left to right they are George Barnette, Susan Hamm, David Hamm, Pastor Lee Romero, Dr Carol Andrus, Linda Latham RN, Dr Mary Martha LeBlanc (You can barely see her head between Linda and Irma in the blue), Irma Sanchez, Darlene Young, Barbara Hudson, Paul Axtell (Paul is a veterinarian), Curtis Allerkamp Juan Flores and Dallas Andrus. Sara Allerkamp was taking the Photo but she is in the picture. See her shadow to the left and bottom!

### Remaining Schedule for 2013

Well Child Clinic to Navaja—May 23 -----24

Hill Country Evangelical Church construction trip to Paso de San Antonio  
 June 10---15

Boquillas Medical Trip June 26 -30

Heritage School local project including VBS July 22 ---27

San Vicente Medical Trip September 17 ---22

Alamos De Marquez Trip October 16 ---20

Christmas in San Vicente sponsored by Fredericksburg United Methodist Dec. 4--7

Well Child Clinic in Centinela Dec. 12---13

**Recent activities continued** ↓



After a trip to Paso De San Antonio to inventory our medications in February, March found us celebrating Christ through worship in San Miguel. Pepe and his wife worked very hard to put this evangelistic event together.



Later in March the Sechrist family (above) joined us on a medical trip to San Vicente, La Union, Piedritas and San Miguel. In the top photo mom (Renee) holds the music sheet for her daughters Abigail (left) and Rebecca, while Dad (Dan) plays the guitar as they worship the Lord.



In the lower photo the two girls are joined by Dr. Ottis Layne as he plays the autoharp.

**Activities continued on page 4**



On January 19<sup>th</sup> Mision De Candelilla held its annual board retreat. Former board member and vice-president of the board Pastor Julian Garcia presented a program on goal setting. Board member Eric Mustard (Board Development Chair) presented a program on board responsibilities. Also installed on this day were new board members. The photo above was taken includes new board members along with executive director Curtis Allerkamp and Board President Judy Hutcherson RN. The photo from left to right shows Dr. Matthew Hoermann MD, Rev. Pam Traver, Thaddeus Miller, Executive Director Curtis Allerkamp, Rev. Kelly Graham, President Judy Hutcherson RN, and Dr. Karen Cornett MD. New Board members not in the photo include Camey Stewart and George Arnold.

**Would you consider helping us continue this work?**

Our fees received from participants only cover the basic costs of each trip. All of our other expenses are covered by private donations. If you would like to join us on a trip, help with scholarships or donate to our general fund, please let us know.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ST/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Contact me about joining a trip to Mexico
- Enclosed is my one-time donation for \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Enclosed is my monthly donation for \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Contact me to sponsor a volunteer

**Thank you!**

Mail to: Mision de Candelilla  
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 Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
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**Good News continued from Page 1**

I cannot say I know exactly why. But I know one thing that is essential for any ministry to succeed. "Our God is a Faithful God". He is faithful to complete the work he has begun in us.

One of the things He completes is our faith. He calls his people to greater levels of commitment. He calls his people deep down in their spirits. Some of the folks I talk to say that they do not know why they want to go but they know God wants them to go. As I travel and work with them on trips I watch as they grow in faith. As they step out in faith He is faithful to grow their faith.

Every time we step out in faith our faith grows and as it grows we step out further. Each step requires us to trust Him more than we have in the past.

I know personally I have come to a place in life that faith is more real than life itself. I believe what God says about me more than what I believe about myself. When I read the scripture and capture His thoughts and words about me I am encouraged. But more importantly when I act on these thoughts and words I am expanded.

Sara and I stepped down from our jobs 7 ½ years ago to serve in this ministry full time. Not that we were not fully engaged in the ministry already but that we would make MDC our primary focus.

During these years we have gone through many difficult days. Finances have been difficult on more than one occasion. Then we encounter the difficulties of the last four years. With smaller groups our finances got even worse. To top it off we had to work harder to make the clinics work. **If we had looked at our circumstances without faith in God we would not have survived.**

But today I thank Him for those difficult days, for it was in those days that faith was tested and faith was increased in our lives. I have grown to absolutely love Him and trust Him in all things and **I cannot take credit for that! He did it!**

So the good news is that He is busy growing your faith. We cannot take credit for our faith for He is the author of that faith. I do not know what you might be going through. But I do know that whether they are good times or if they are difficult times He is in the midst of your times and therefore they are **all good times! That is truly Good News!** Curtis

*First Impressions continued*

"Ten Thousand Reasons" in Spanish while Dr. Layne played the autoharp. DeLisa (another homeschooled girl from Temple on the trip with us) shared her puppet ministry.

Dan assisted Dr. Kroger. Renee' did intakes (check in, BP, temp, and pulse rate) and also trained DeLisa on these procedures. We saw 53 patients in San Vicente, 53 patients in La Union, 20 patients in Piedritas, and 80 patients in San Miguel.

What a wonderful trip experience! So hard to put into words..... Abigail says she was glad that God put a calling on our family to go because these people need help. Rebecca says that she really enjoyed learning all the doctoring stuff and a good bit about this culture. We were all moved in different ways. Dan jokes that he loved traveling 18 hours to Mexico only to be locked up in a dark room 12 hours a day with two other men...Daddy is always good for a laugh.

This area is poor but it is rich with people and its simple beauties...

Are we glad we went? **Yes!** Is it a risk free trip? **No.** Will we go again? **Yes!!!**

What do you call wind bellowing, dogs barking, and coyotes howling in the night?

... That's white noise/ mood sounds in this area of Mexico.

What do you call the moon and stars over your sleeping bags at night? ... Your night lights.

What do you call a five gallon bucket filled with cold water and a cup inside that is sitting on a cement slab with a drain in the middle of the slab? ... Give up? ... That is called a refreshing shower in this area of Mexico.

**Activities continued.....**



*In this photo Renee and Rebecca are joined by Father and Grandfather Dr. Charles Burg. Charlie as we affectionately call him has been going with us for years.*



*April found us in the state of Chihuahua. In this photo members of the Johnson City First United Methodist Church were busy filling scripts for our patients in Alamos de San Antonio. See the photo of the entire group on page 2.*



*Later in April we once again went to La Union to facilitate a work project. The project in conjunction with Rotary District 5840's Hunger-plus project was to screen all of the windows and doors in the homes of the ejido La Union. In this photo the men of the village join our team to construct the screens.*

**This year has been very busy. We are grateful for all the things the Lord has accomplished to help our Friends south of the border. We have work on both sides on our schedule this year. Keep us in your prayers!**