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# La Palabra De Dios En El Desierto

## Sacrificio de Una Madre

*(A Mother's Sacrifice)*

By Sara Allerkamp

On January 8<sup>th</sup> we arrived in the village of Las Norias to hold our 1<sup>st</sup> biannual clinic there this year. Every trip has at least one moment that touches me. This trip would be no exception.

Elizabeth Flores, thirty-three year old mother of two came into the clinic to consult one of our doctors. Mrs. Flores is an attractive brown eyed lady who was neatly dressed in blue jeans, a blouse and sweater, and hair pulled back in a pony tail.

She first presented her three year old who had a runny nose and a cough. After her little one was taken care of, I gave Mrs. Flores' chart to Dr. Dennis. The intake volunteer, Katherine Peak, had written, "Pain in joints times 6 months. Has been taken to Muzquiz to evaluate for arthritis. All tests were normal."

Dr. Dennis examined her and sure enough she had no signs of redness or swelling which is often typical of arthritis. Mrs. Flores told us, "I hurt in every joint in my body." Dr. Dennis left for a few minutes to ask Dr. Layne if he wanted to run a typhoid test on Mrs. Flores, just to be sure that wasn't her problem.

While Dr. Dennis was gone, I asked Mrs. Flores, "Have you been going through any stress in your life?"

She shook her head, "No, everything is fine."

"How many children do you have?" I asked her.

"Two." she answered.

"Your three year old is a cutie. How old is the other child?"

"Nine." She looked me in the eye and

**See Sacrificio page 3**



Children waiting to see the Doctor in Las Norias

## Ordinary or Extraordinary?

By Bruce Ivers

A broken tie rod, on a very rough remote dirt road in Mexico three hours from nowhere seemed to be an impossible situation. My faith was tested. Yet the ordinary proved to be extraordinary. This incident became one of the most spiritual and faith building moments of the trip for me.

We were headed to La Union from San Vicente to do our second clinic of the trip. This was my first trip to San Vicente. Curtis had warned us before we left that these were the worst of worst of all roads MDC travels. Having driven it two nights before, I clearly understood why he had said that. I was taking in all the beautiful scenery I had missed in the dark the night before.

Curtis was quite ill, and so he and Sara could not be with us – a point of anxiety for many on the trip. Those of us thrust into roles of leadership were especially anxious. Because of his 20 years of experience driving these roads, Curtis is the go-to-guy when things go wrong. Suddenly it seemed like our anxieties about him not being along were being confirmed.

Pastor Pepe, one of our local contacts and guide for this trip, is heading up the convoy. We are going downhill,

**See Extraordinary continued on Page 4**

## **A New Home**

Three years ago the board of MDC and Sara and I began discussing the long term future of the mission. We have established two initiatives to ensure the long term sustainability of Mision de Candelilla.

1. Develop leadership that will lead groups.
2. Establish headquarters where we can store all mission assets in one location This will also allow us to better utilize volunteers.

The need to reach these goals never became more apparent than it did earlier this month.

Several days before the departure of a recent trip I was hospitalized with a serious illness. This jeopardized the trip that was scheduled to go to San Vicente on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Even after I was discharged from the hospital I was unable to complete the tasks needed to launch the trip.

Fortunately Sara, friends and neighbors were able to get the task done with minimal assistance from me. I was glad that we had made significant

**See New Home continued on page 3**



Our team pulling meds from the shelf from our med room in Muzquiz for the March 8<sup>th</sup> trip to San Vicente. Left to right: Ellen Wells, Dr Charles Burg and Cody Wells.

**Save the Date  
Fiesta 2016  
August 6, 2016**



**Remaining 2016 Medical Trips**

**April 20<sup>th</sup> thru 24<sup>th</sup>**  
*Alamos De Marquez*

**June 22<sup>nd</sup> thru 26<sup>th</sup>**  
*Boquillas*

**September 21<sup>st</sup> Thru 25<sup>th</sup>**  
*San Vicente*

**October 19<sup>th</sup> thru 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
*Alamos De Marquez*

**December 1<sup>st</sup> thru 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
*Well Child Clinic in Centinela*

**2016 Non Medical Trips**

**June 6<sup>th</sup> thru 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Efree trip to Paso de San Antonio\*\*

**June 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>**  
Construction to La Union  
*Holy Ghost Lutheran*

**July 17<sup>th</sup> thru 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Local Missions Week  
*Heritage School*

**December 7<sup>th</sup> thru 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Christmas in San Vicente  
*Fredericksburg United Methodist*

**December 17<sup>th</sup> thru 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Christmas in La Union\*  
*Holy Ghost Lutheran*  
We will be scheduling more Well Child Clinics and other non medical trips by the end of the year. Please check our website for more details.

[misiondecandelilla.org](http://misiondecandelilla.org)

\*tentative trip

\*\* tentative date



The views are stunning. We seldom publish scenic photos as we really like to focus on the people. Looking at this one I could not resist. The mountains lit up by the sun in the background are the Sierra Del Carmen. I wish I could have been there!



There was a threat of rain during the entire trip. I was deeply concerned because the road to San Vicente is difficult at best, when it is dry. Wet, it is not only almost impossible but it is treacherous. Later when I was reviewing the photos I came across this one of a rainbow taken while the group was in La Union. I was reminded of the covenant God made with Noah.



**Sacrificio Continued**

said, "He's living in Ft. Stockton."

"In Ft. Stockton? How long has he been living in Ft. Stockton, I asked.

"Six months," she answered.

"Six months? I asked with surprise. Wow, he's awfully young to be separated from his mother. "Really, he should be with you."

*(my thoughts are.....could the stress of the emotional pain of being separated from her little boy have brought on the pain in her joints?*

"She looked at me and then lowered her eyes, "Yes, I need to let him stay with me."

She continued, "He was just here with us during the holidays. He was born in the United States and has his citizenship. He's staying with my husband's brother while he goes to school there. There is no school in our village for first through sixth grades because we do not have enough children of that age to justify the government sending us a teacher."

I looked at her and was sorry I had told her the child should be with his mom. My heart filled with emotion. "You are a very good mother," I told her. "You are thinking of your son's future."

She nodded and I saw a little spark in her eyes.

I continued, "I only hope that if I were in your shoes, I would have the courage to do what you are doing."

She seemed a little more animated as she began to tell me with pride in her voice, "My son is very intelligent. The other day my son's uncle where my son lives got a call from the school and they told him how well my son was doing in school."

"You are doing the right thing.", I reassured her again. "With an education he will have better opportunities to have a better life."

Again, this situation with this mother has impressed upon me how different life here in the villages is from living in the United States. There are several children from first through sixth grade in this small village who are receiving **no education**.

**Please pray for Mrs. Flores: For her physical and emotional health. And that her son will continue to do well in school.**

*Occasionally we are still asked about our name. To your right is a candelilla plant. The locals harvest a waxy substance from it. It is used in making melamine. Most lip sticks and lip balms have candelilla wax in them, as well. When we were deciding on a name in 1999 we thought of this plant and if you will notice our logo has a flame with a cross in it coming out of the plant.*



*To your left is a candelilla pit. A vat is placed on top with candelilla plants and water in it. Then they build a fire under it. At a certain point they add sulfuric acid to it to bring the wax to the top. Once it cools down they cut the wax out in blocks.*



**April 20 thru April 24 trip to Alamos De Marquez**  
**There is still room! Sign up now**  
**New Home continued**

gains in developing leadership to lead groups to Mexico as I could not go. In addition Sara could not go because she needed to stay home and care for me.

The glaring weakness is the lack of a mission home where we can store all mission supplies. This would have allowed volunteers to prep for this trip. Our inability to store supplies in one location, leads to Sara and I as the only persons knowing where they are located. If I had been totally incapacitated, we would have had no choice but to cancel the trip.

The good news is that the trip left on schedule and was very successful. We are very grateful that the Lord blessed the team immensely! But we have more good news.

We have an opportunity to purchase 1.45 acres with a modern (built in 2001) 1800 square foot building. It is located in a commercially zoned area Fredericksburg. Additionally the owners are selling it to the mission for 50% of market value.

This is an answer to prayer. In our prayers, as we sought His wisdom, we could not envision how we were going to accomplish this goal. He has provided a way!

We need to finish raising \$100,000 by May 9<sup>th</sup> of this year. To that end, we are well on our way. Additionally, it is our desire to pay it off entirely by the end of this year. That means raising an additional \$100,000 by the end of the year!

Will you help us? Will you ensure that the mission continues touch people with the love of God? Please prayerfully consider what God would have you do.



**Extraordinary continued**

into one of the many dry washes, Pepe is pulled over on the side of the road. It looked like an awkward place to stop, but then we see that he had no choice as he had no steering.

As he jacks up the truck he calls for a piece of wire! We laugh, because Pepe is known to fix anything with baling wire and/or duct tape. All of us were thinking "this will not work". A group member standing with me said "That's never going to hold." "Never say 'never'", I replied, trying to be positive. But I am thinking "He's right."

Clueless, I go to the toolbox on the mission truck to see if we have anything that might work better. I hear the call go out to start transferring all the medicine in Pepe's truck to the trailer. This would allow us to go on and get the clinic started. But Pepe assures us that he'll have it fixed in 5 minutes. As I was walking back to the truck to inspect his work, I was thinking "this will never work."

Instead, I was astounded by what I saw. We were unaware that he was using a bicycle inner tube to wrap the joint. Instead of using the wire to wrap the joint (as we all thought he was doing) he was using it to hold the inner tube he had stretched over the joint, in place. The genius of it was immediately apparent – the inner tube and its ability to flex would absorb the stress on the joint.

In retrospect God revealed a broader truth to me. I saw that this sort of thing was "business as usual" for Pepe. Having driven these roads for years; he had obviously made these sorts of repairs before. "No hill for a climber", as they say. Whereas, for me, it was something way out of my experience level. Thus this event was a significant point of anxiety and worry. In my mind, it was going to take a small miracle to get us out of that situation..... something extraordinary. Pepe's "ordinary" became my "extraordinary".

That's all. No miracles. No angels. No tow truck appearing out of nowhere. It impacted how I think about faith in God, and how He meets our needs. A humble, unassuming man, doing what he does every day, able to see a situation differently due to his experience, became our miracle. It was just an everyday thing for him. But his ordinary gift had become an extraordinary answer to what seemed like an impossible situation for the rest of us.



*Pepe working on his truck creating the extraordinary out of the ordinary.*

**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. You may also donate on line at [misiondecandelilla.org](http://misiondecandelilla.org).

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

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

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

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

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

- I would like go on a trip to Mexico*
- Enclosed is my one-time donation for \$\_\_\_\_\_*
- Enclosed is my monthly donation for \$\_\_\_\_\_*
- Enclosed is my donation for a mission home\$\_\_\_\_\_***

Mail to: Mision de Candelilla  
 888 White Oak Road **Thank You!**  
 Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
 Phone: 830.997.6542  
 Email: [misiondecandelilla@gmail.com](mailto:misiondecandelilla@gmail.com)

