



Mision De Candelilla

ANGING LIVES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER

La Palabra De Dios En El Desierto

Intimacy with God

Recently I have been experiencing the Lord at a deeper level than I have in quite some time. In fact His presence has been greater than I have ever experienced before.

This has caused me to think about the times when I have felt a strong presence as opposed to when I seem to go through a spiritual drought. If we are honest with ourselves we all have had times when we experience the Lord at a deep intimate level and times that feel dry and empty.

There are some who think our attitude has nothing to do with our experience in Him. They believe that there are simply dry seasons that we have to walk through and at other times we go through a deluge of rain in the spirit. While I think there are movements of the Spirit and God certainly determines when He moves and the outcome of His moving, I also believe God's actions begin individually and then as we come together corporately the move is enhanced. I think we play a greater role in the manifestation of this movement than most of us believe. Perhaps we need to examine what attitude in our heart moves God to respond to us more intimately.

How do we as individuals experience God on a deeper level? Do we have to pray harder? Or do we have to read and meditate on the word more? Do we have to do more? Do we have to do a better job of obeying the rules? Do we have to go to church more?

All of these things are good, but I doubt seriously if these things alone cause us to experience God in a more intimate way. I have been contemplating times in my life

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Look at the joy on the faces of this family. Each family received gifts given to them by a family from Fredericksburg United Methodist Church.

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The people of San Vicente enjoying the Christmas Party.



Alma (young lady looking towards the camera) is enjoying the cookies and hot chocolate. December 18th was quite cold but we were blessed with sunshine and warm hearts as we celebrated with the people. We started going to San Vicente in 1999 so we have had the joy of watching Alma grow up.

2010 in review

Last year started with us spending New Years Eve in Mexico with the youth of Holy Ghost Lutheran Church of Fredericksburg. We were able to finalize the work on the community center we built for the village of Alamos De Marquez. In addition we completed some repairs to the local church and started a playground for the children by building a swing set.

In February we did an inventory of all our medications stored in Mexico. Sara and I especially enjoy these trips because we get to spend time with friends when we do this.

March found us facilitating MDC's 1st medical trip of 2010. We had a group composed mostly of folks from Stephenville, Texas. They will be going with us again in March of this year. This will be their third year with us and we are looking forward to seeing them again.

We also held our third annual garage sale for the benefit of the mission in March. It was a great success and we have board member Sally Tatsch to thank for putting this together for the first three years.

April brought us back to Mexico twice. Our first trip was to the middle villages. This is

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25 Year Celebration

It was 1986 when Carol Smith called to ask if Sara would bring a medical clinic to Boquillas and Las Norias. Sara said, "No, that she did not feel competent enough as a nurse to do this without a doctor, but she would ask our next door neighbor if he would participate in this as well. That neighbor as most of you know was and is Dr. Ottis Layne. He said yes. They could not know that in that moment Mision De Candelilla would be conceived. In April of that year Ottis and Sara took off with a few others to form the first medical team. Much has changed since then but two things have not changed.

Dr. Layne and Sara still continue to go 25 years later. I now come with Sara, but I am a "Johnny come lately". I reluctantly came on my first trip in the spring of 1995.

After much discussion we have decided to celebrate our 25 year history of the mission on November 5th of this year. If you have gone with us or have supported the mission in some way during the past 25 years we ask that you would mark this day on your calendar. We would love have you attend. We will give you more details later.

Spring 2011 Medical Trips

Boquillas Trip.....March 16th --20th

San Vicente Trip..... April 5th-----10th

Alamos De Marquez Trip April..27th---May 1st

Fall 2011 Medical Trips

Boquillas Trip.....Sept. 21st—25th

San Vicente Trip.....Oct. 11th----16th

Alamos De Marquez Trip...Oct. 26th----30th

Fees on all trips are \$350. We do not want this to be a stumbling block. Partial scholarships and/or payment plans are usually available. If you desire to serve on one of these teams please utilize the registration form sent with this newsletter or contact us at 830-997-6542 or 830-992-9453. You may also email us at callerkamp@beecreek.net or sallerkamp@beecreek.net.

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now a 6 day trip. We are pleased how this worked out. Previously we would split the group into two groups in order to do two clinics in one day. This never worked very well. We had four doctors on this trip. Dr. Charles Burg, Dr. Mary Martha LeBlanc, Dr. J. Taylor Starkey and Dr. John H. Starkey formed the foundation of our team. We are grateful for all of them and especially grateful for Dr. Burg. He has been faithfully going with us since 1995.

Later in April we took a group to the western villages (Alamos De Marquez, Alamos De San Antonio and Paso De San Antonio). This was our first clinic in Paso De San Antonio. Previously we went to Santa Elena instead but our clinic size there had dwindled to the point we could no longer justify bringing so many resources there for so few people.

In May Sara and I departed for the villages to bring some special meds and to inform the folks that we wanted to come back in ten days to pick-up some of their arts and crafts to sell in the Mexican Market at our annual Fiesta. When we came back to pick them up we also brought an engineering student to check out the internet system set up in San Miguel the previous January. We also dropped off a student who wanted to spend part of his summer with a Mexican family in Paso De San Antonio.

Unfortunately our summer youth trips to Mexico all cancelled. So the only summer trip was to Big Bend Tabernacle near Study Butte, Texas. This group (Heritage School Students) went with us on July 22nd to put a roof on an old pole barn that is being converted into a two-story dormitory.

We returned from that trip on the 28th of July to focus on our Fiesta Fundraiser on July 30th. This was our best fiesta ever. We are so grateful for everyone that made this event a tremendous success. We hope to repeat this success this year on August 6th.

In September, three days before we were scheduled to depart on our first fall medical trip, we received word that indicated that it would be dangerous for us to bring a group to the region we serve. While we were skeptical of the information we received we did not have time to investigate the situation previous to the scheduled dates of the Fall trips. We were left with no choice but to cancel the trips.

Subsequently, we traveled to Muzquiz in September and October to investigate and to fill the prescriptions for folks who have chronic illnesses. We were able to accomplish two things. We got medications to all of the folks that depend on us for them. Secondly with these two trips and another trip to the villages in early November we were able to ascertain that everything we had heard was grossly inaccurate and that we could still take groups to the region.

While we were in the villages we went to a Christian Fiesta facilitated and funded by Pastor Pepe. We also delivered school supplies to all of the villages provided by the Greater San Marcos Rotary Club.

On December 9th we took a small group to Piedras Negras to do a well child clinic in the ejido Centinela. This is a village supported by the Piedras Negras Rotary Club. We spent the 10th facilitating the clinic and visiting with the Rotary club. After returning on the 11th we prepared to depart on the 17th with folks from Fredericksburg United Methodist Church to deliver gifts and the love of Christ to San Vicente. This trip was a huge success.

In spite of many difficulties we look back on 2010 as a great success. The Lord proved to be strong in all of our circumstances.

Christmas Gifts for San Vicente



***Benita** was our cook and hostess last December in San Vicente. Her cooking is oh so good! On this trip we brought members from **Fredericksburg United Methodist Church** to deliver gifts that families from their church had purchased for each person in the village. We handed out the gifts by family. This was followed by a wonderful Christmas Party. The party ended with Christmas worship service in which we celebrated the ultimate gift in Christ.*

Several members of a church in San Antonio had purchased food for each family as well. Two Baptist brothers, one from San Antonio and one from Louisiana came with us to help deliver this food.

The people of San Vicente we very grateful and sent thank you notes back with us to give to the families who had provided the gifts. We at MDC are very grateful for everyone who contributed to this effort. The love of Christ was presented to the folks of San Vicente in a very Special way. This trip was a great illustration of church unity!



*We had a great year in 2010, but the year came with some sorrow as well. For years our friend **Angel Garza** would meet us at the bridge on the Piedras Negras side to help us with Mexican customs. He was a member of the Piedras Negras Rotary Club. We cherished his friendship. This photo was taken a few weeks before he went home to be with the Lord. We miss him!*

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when I have experienced the Lord on a deeper level as opposed to when I have felt dry. I have come to a conclusion.....it all has to do with attitude. There have been times I felt I know all I need to know, that I have arrived and figured life out. At times I have believed my church has all the answers and everyone else is wrong. At other times I have believed "I have been there done that" and I do not need to hear this but I wish "so and so" would listen to this. In retrospect I realize it is during these times that I have experienced the greatest droughts.

Today I am grateful for my failures. It is these failures that have caused me to recognize my brokenness and my constant need for Him. It is in those dark hours, in contrition, that I have experienced my most intimate times with the Lord. They have taught me I am always in need of being rescued by Him. I will never be "good enough" on my own merit to step into His presence. I will never "do enough" to merit His presence. I will never have been a Christian "long enough" to merit His presence. I will always need Him to heal me. I will always need Him to remind me "I am His".

Today is not a dark hour in my life but the dark hours have taught me that I always have needs only He can fill. Psalms 51 vs. 17 NKJV states "A broken and a contrite heart--These, O God, you will not despise." This same scripture in *The Message* reads this way, beginning in vs. 16 and reading thru vs. 17;

"Going through the motions doesn't please you, a flawless performance is nothing to you.

I learned God-worship when my pride was shattered.

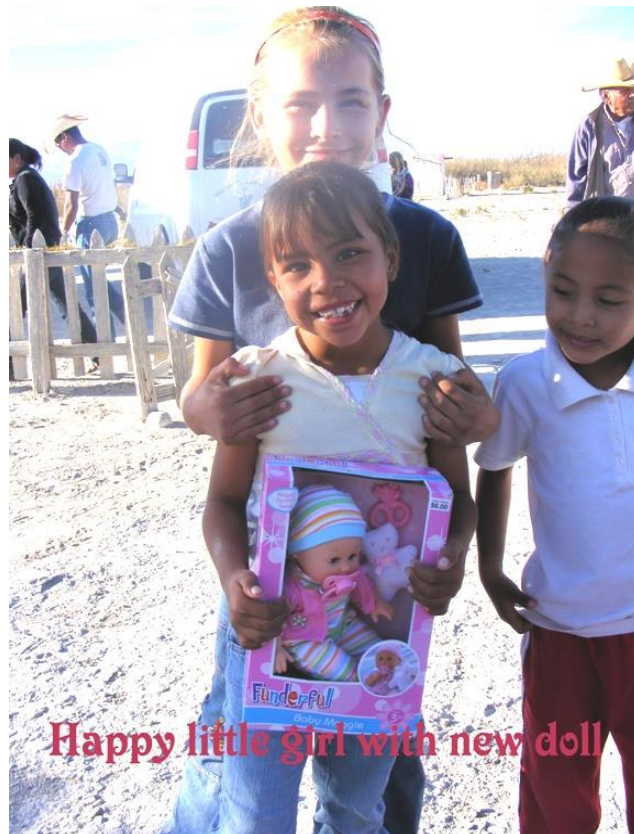
Heart-shattered lives ready for love don't for a moment escape God's notice."

The apostle Paul further explains this in 2nd Corinthians 12 vs. 7 – 10. He tells us the Lord told him that His Grace was sufficient when he (Paul) asked him to remove the thorn from his flesh. He goes on to indicate he realizes the thorn would continue to remind him of his personal need. He is especially reminded to remain humble by this thorn in his flesh.

Today I can truly say I have no regrets. That is not to say, that I do not experience contriteness when I have sinned or failed in some other way. These failures in my past, remind me of my inability to live life in my own strength. Paul writes in 2nd Corinthians 12:10 (NASB); "Therefore I am content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then I am strong." In our weakness Christ is strong. It is this reliance on him that will help me avoid the pitfalls that lie ahead. If I remain humble, (big if) I will likely continue experiencing His deep abiding presence.

I know in spite of my best efforts there will be days of failure in my life. But I know two things – I can always ask for His forgiveness and expect His Grace to heal me and in spite of my human weaknesses I will continue to obey His call on my life! I pray each of you do the same!

Please remember our annual garage sale on March 4th and 5th. You might find something you want to buy. Also if you have something to donate please call us at 830-997-6542 or 830-992-9454. No clothes are junk please.



Happy little girl with new doll

Look at the joy on this little girls face after she received a new doll on the recent trip to San Vicente!

YES! I want to join you!

Our fees to 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 \$ _____

Thank you!

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