

Saracoff Sentinel/Team Tijuana

Updates from the field

FALL 2012

Points for Prayer

- Praise God for folks we saw this summer and we pray for better communication with all of you.
- Lift up Esperanza Rehab as their land rights are being disputed...High legal fees.
- Praise God He transforms lives at Campamento de Fe and Esperanza!
- Pray that many lives will change through Martha's Good News Club in downtown Tijuana.
- Praise God for a new home built by volunteers for a family in Carretas that has helped Chela (see back).
- Praise for funds raised this summer for a basketball court for kids. Now it needs to be built.



What's a Missionary to Do? by Greg

Kathy and I went on a trip this summer to see supporters in Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota, Colorado and New Mexico. It was a great blessing to pray in groups with people like you who are part of our Mexico team. Also it was a time to take a break, see family and do a little vacation stuff...I had great hopes of camping in a teepee in the Rocky Mountains.

Picture us in Colorado. My spirits run high as we reach the end of an eight mile dirt road and my son Ian and I set up our teepee. We jump back into the car to get Kathy who is with her parents at a timeshare. Hurrah!

Then it happens. A rattling sound in the rear of the Pathfinder followed by a more serious grinding sound under the car. It gets a little scary as we return down the mountain pass in the growing darkness. I'm not sure we'll make it back....but thank God, we do.

Next day instead of camping, we get towed. The mechanic, holding up metal pieces in his hand, says our brakes are wiped out. He states that since we're two hours from Denver where he has to get special parts, it will cost \$1000 dollars to fix and will take three days if we order the parts immediately. Yikes! What's a missionary to do? (Continued on back)

Jesus Christ Transforms Lives at Esperanza Women's Center!

Recently a visiting group from a Korean church in LA was treated to a mime created and performed by the girls at Esperanza about the Fruits of the Spirit. Like a Miss Mexico pageant, 9 young women wearing banners across their chests proclaiming "Amor/Love", "Paz/Peace" and the other 7 fruits, were escorted in by a woman with the white banner "Espiritu Santo." Then groups of 2 and 3 acted out situations of greed, conflict, addiction, loneliness, desperation, and so on, each of which were resolved by the Holy Spirit introducing the appropriate "Fruit of the Spirit." It was a foretaste of what was to come as we got to hear some of their real life stories. Please see other side for the testimony of Martha, a graduate of Esperanza Rehab Center.



Carretas Kids

- Pray for a full-time assistant for Chela who is helping the children and families living near the old city dump.

Our Mission: *To show the love of God to the poor and disadvantaged in Tijuana, Mexico, by raising funds to train, mentor and network. We do micro business and business development to raise standards of living. We fight the prevailing ambience of corruption by teaching ethical excellence and hard work. We currently work with Carretas Community Center, Esperanza Rehab Center and Campamento de Fe.*



Old & new house



Martha's Story. Martha and her husband Arturo (37) came to Esperanza 5 years ago seeking help for their drug addictions. At Martha's "Quinceñera" (the milestone 15th birthday party), instead of receiving gifts, she got introduced to hard drugs. A pregnancy followed, then another, and lots more drugs. She and her boyfriend knew they needed help but were not looking for God. Yet He found them and transformed them from desperate, quarreling users who were neglecting their two young daughters, to a radiant couple serving God together.

Martha goes every week to the Zona Norte (Tijuana's red light district) to teach a Good News Club to children of prostitutes. Her oldest daughter was 7 when she came to Esperanza and was one of the children we prayed for when I started "Madres Unidas Para Orar" 5 years ago there. Their second daughter took her first steps when Martha was in rehab. Martha has asked both daughters' forgiveness for failing them as a mother those early years. Martha has obviously forgiven her--in fact she is her mother's best helper at the Saturday children's club. Arturo and Martha have a 9 month old son fittingly named "Emmanuel" (God with us). Family photo, left.

(Greg's story continued) My immediate emotion is: "Just fix it-- we need brakes in the mountains and we have to be out of here in 3 days!" It is at the emotional stress point where you finally ask, "I wonder what is God's plan in this?" It seems emergencies rarely allow for prayer time. But if we don't pray with our families about everyday problems, they're not going to notice God's hand in their lives. So as a family we stopped and "cast our [car]cares on Him, because He cares for us." (I Peter 5:7)

I decide to tow the car to get a second opinion-- it **can't** cost this much! Another night of non-camping brings the revelation the next morning that the tow truck "mistakenly" has towed the car to the wrong station. New waves of panic: "NOW how long will it take?" Well it's there now, might as well see what they say. They call back later. The Pathfinder is roadworthy—the charge...**Nothing!** We can pick it up right away. Turns out it was only the parking brake, they cleaned out the stuff jamming things up, and he said the regular brakes are fine. Fix the parking brakes when you get home. They refused to take any pay. Wow, how God can work! We did stop to thank and praise Him for this miracle.

Finally, we could camp. Kathy and I did an 8 hour hike RT to Lake Constantine, planning to fish and then spend the night at the teepee, but clouds unloaded rain and hail on us. Soaked to the skin this time, we had to retreat again to the timeshare. Sadly, we never did get to camp but we did see God answer and even better our whole family saw that after we prayed something very unique happened. I had to let my camping expectations go and let myself enjoy my family and rest in the Lord's provisions. Our plans are not always His plans!

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Let us hear from you!

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