



Hearts, Hands and Smiles! by Julie Zaragoza

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."

1 Corinthians 3:6-9

There has been a lot of planting and a lot of watering going on around here and lots of different people doing that planting and watering! The month of June began with a visit from Grace



Parker, a student at Goshen College in Indiana who spent a week with us as part of her summer internship at a multi-cultural church in Washington

D.C. pastored by Kirk Hanger, the founder of the church we attend here in Mexico. She did a great job helping out in school, hanging out with the kids and providing another good friendship for Angie.

We enjoyed several one day visits from people like Wayne

from Canada who was spending some time visiting different ministries and evangelizing throughout Mexico; our friend, Irma, who has faithfully come out to Refuge Ranch from the northern side of Mexico City for years to love on the kids and generously bring us non-perishable food items; and, finally, our newest five children's grandmother visited for a day.

Other U.S. visitors included Brighton Ballmer, from Mayfair Plymouth Church in Toledo, OH, as well as Dr. Bill Karkow and Kayla Wyntheim, both of Community Bible Church in Strawberry Point, IA. Brighton, fresh out of high school, spent three weeks in Mexico: two weeks at Refuge Ranch and one week on the crusade to Chiapas where he was able to whet his appetite for nursing, which he plans on studying in college.

Dr. Bill Karkow, a surgeon, participated in his second Evangelistic Medical Mission Crusade. It is impossible to fully explain the way that his surgical expertise, willing service and humble heart bless the residents of the communities he has visited. His patients are individuals who, without him, would have no hope of ever receiving the surgical care they need, even though the

care he can provide is greatly limited due to being able to use only local anesthetic and working in very primitive conditions. When word gets around town that a surgeon is part of the Fishers of Men team, the attendance at crusades always increases, meaning that many more people have the opportunity for true healing to take place – spiritual healing when they accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. It was also a joy to have Dr. Bill at Refuge Ranch for a week after the crusade. As a member of the Fishers of Men Board of Directors it was great to have time to share the dreams and visions

that the Lord has laid on each of our hearts and also to have the opportunity to share with Dr. Bill firsthand daily life with our precious 17 children and great staff.



Kayla Wyntheim, Dr. Bill's traveling partner and a future nurse herself, also served the Lord by working on the crusade to Chiapas

and then helping out with lots of different things here at the Ranch, from pushing kids on swings to cataloguing schoolbooks.

I have a special place in



my heart for high school and college age students seeking to serve the Lord through short-term missions and, at the same time, using those experiences to seek God's will for their lifetimes as it relates to missions and the careers that He has placed in their hearts.

There is nothing better than being able to serve the Lord throughout your youth, into adulthood and until He calls us home!

It is especially exciting when the Lord provides new Mexican volunteers to support the ministry with their time and knowledge. Recently He has brought Ivonne, a Mexican emergency room nurse, to the ministry. She spent several days out here at the Ranch going through all the boxes of medications for the crusades – throwing out old meds and categorizing and organizing the rest of the medication and some supplies. What a blessing!

One visit this month held particular meaning for me personally! My best friend, more like a sister, from college, Janelle, and



her two children, Ana and Memito, spent a week with us! She and her husband, Memo, have moved back to Mexico (Memo's home country) from Argentina and only live about 4 hours from our house!

Each of these visitors was so unique. They each planted and watered so many different seeds during their time here!

Summer Fun!

As a homeschooling family and with many of our children behind where they technically should be in school, due to their past living situations, we do year-round school! However, our kids have had some fun summer experiences, while trying to keep up with their school work!

Soccer: A local lady in our town of Tepetlixpa runs a summer soccer camp at a field behind her home. So every day from 11-1



seven of our kids pile into the car to get some exercise, have some fun and improve their soccer skills. (Soccer skills would be the equivalent of survival skills

here in Mexico!)

VBS: Eight of our kids attended VBS at our church this year and Angie served as the preschool teacher, while Martita and two other teenagers led all of the music and choreography! It is such a joy to watch our girls serve the Lord and their younger siblings enjoy their service! The VBS theme this year "takes place" in New York City! The kids were pretty excited that they got to "visit" a place their American Mommy had never even been! Daniel can't wait to turn 4 so that he can go to "New York" too!

Formal Dinner: Angie orchestrated an incredible evening for her younger siblings by invit-

ing them to a formal dinner in the basement hallway! She coordinated her older siblings as volun-



teers to decorate the hallway, do hair, pick out dress outfits for the kids and make the dessert. Rosa blessed the kids with a delicious menu, I provided violin dinner music and Victor made a great waiter! Thanks, Angie, for such special memories!

Evangelistic Medical Mission Crusade News by Julie Zaragoza

Both the crusade to Cuernavaca and Toluca were considered “local crusades” because they are near the metropolitan Mexico City area and were shorter in length. However, the number of volunteers, equipment, medication, vehicles and time invested in these crusades was comparable to “regular” crusades! Victor always says, “The Lord’s reward for a job well done is more work!”

Cuernavaca, Morelos: June 2-4

Ministerios de Amor is an organization of children’s homes in the city of Cuernavaca, Morelos, the “city of eternal spring,” located about an hour and a half south of Refuge Ranch. The Fishers of Men crusade team was invited to provide medical and dental care for the children at their various homes.

Our eldest daughter, Angie, who is a magnet for children



and whom I am sure the Lord will use to reach many children for Him throughout her lifetime, served on this crusade, as well as Grace, who was here that week.

This seemed to be an irony to me. I visited those same children’s homes in college while studying for a semester in Cuernavaca in order to see one option

for running a “children’s home,” as the Lord had already laid on my heart the desire and passion to be a mommy for children who need one. Little did I know that someday my own adopted daughter would serve in those same homes! As Angie witnessed siblings separated by sex and age, dormitories rather than bedrooms, and the inconsistency of supervision by various staff rather than two parents, she was reminded of God’s blessing of living in a family rather than a “children’s home.”

Verapaz, Chiapas: June 20-25



The nurses at the local government health center shared that it had been years since an actual doctor had visited their town! The local people could not fathom a free health clinic! Many stopped by just to see if the rumors were true, and after receiving dental or medical care themselves, realized that the “too good to be true” gossip was actually very true!

The EMMC team was blessed by Dr. Bill, Kayla and Brighton’s presence on this crusade, even fulfilling the dream that a local woman had about a team of tall doctors who would come to their town and heal her cancer. She was examined by the doctors, and while her cancer probably could have been curable in a large hospital setting, our doctors could

“only” offer her eternal healing by sharing the Gospel with her and then praying for her physical healing. She and her husband accepted the Lord and we trust in His perfect will for her physical healing.

Toluca, Mexico: July 20-23

On this “local” crusade the team traveled on Wednesday, saw patients in one town on Wednesday and Thursday, packed up on Thursday and traveled to another location that evening, unpacked and setup on Friday morning, saw patients all day Friday and Saturday and traveled back home on Saturday evening, fitting as much as was possible into just a few days. This crusade was as much of an encouragement to the local pastors in each town as it was a tool of salvation for those attended to by the volunteer doctors, nurses and dentists.

Statistics

Cuernavaca, Morelos: June 2-4

the volunteers attended to 346 individual needs.

Verapaz, Chiapas: June 20-25

General Medical appointments: 327
 Gynecology: 84
 Dental appointments: 171
 Haircuts: 83
 Surgery: 16
 Specialist appointments: 55
 Children’s Ministry: 157
 Accepted Christ: 53
 Total attended to (not including children’s ministry): 736

Toluca, State of Mexico: July 20-23

377 attended to; 60 children attended the children’s ministry
 Accepted Christ: 83 (not including children)

We're on the web!

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A Precious Gift, If Only for a Time

On May 21, 2011, we welcomed a new addition to the staff families here at Refuge Ranch. Cirino, who has been a faithful servant of the Lord here at Refuge Ranch for nearly eight years as mason, farmhand and on security detail, and his wife, Nancy, welcomed Lucía into the world! However, three short weeks later, on June 16, 2011, all of our worlds were rocked when Jesus took little Lucía home to Heaven!



While some of us had the honor of holding Lucía during her short time here on earth and others never even met her, we all look forward to spending eternity with her!

The Lord has worked in beautiful ways in Cirino and Nancy's lives during this tremendous tragedy. Please pray that He would continue to do so and that God's grace would be ever present in their family!

Milestones in June and July

Our hearts filled with gratitude to the Lord as we celebrated each of the following occasions during the last two months. We marvel at all that each of these celebrations mean!

Birthdays:

Angie -18

Lolis - 14

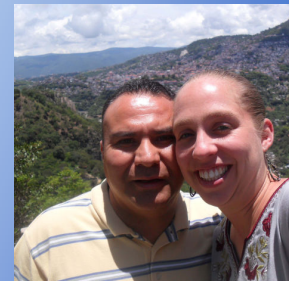
Miguel - 8

Cirino (staff)

Anniversaries:

Victor and Julie Zaragoza - 13

Mark and Lucy Marshall - 20



Victor and Julie on their anniversary trip to Taxco, Guerrero