

◆ The Garcia Gazette

Reaching Mexico and the Nations for Jesus

December 2017



Link International
Ministries



Pablo & Martha Garcia
Serving with LIM at the
church "La Gran Comisión" in
Ensenada Mexico

Reaching Mexico and
the Nations for Jesus

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*¡Feliz Navidad to our dear
family and friends!*

With the end of the year come
celebrations, graduations, weddings,
reflection and planning for the
future!

Shared in chronological order...!



In November we "graduated
another couple" from our pre-marital
counseling course and walked with
them into the celebration of their
wedding! Another couple at the
wedding that we had also given pre-
marital counseling to talked with us
and posed the question, "Do you
kind of feel like proud parents,
seeing another set of kids off?" It
was fun to stop and reflect! It truly
does feel like we walk with them
from the beginning and watch as so
many things transform in their
thoughts and relationship and then
we "send them off!" And we
celebrate!! So happy to be a part of
their lives!

In the beginning of December
was the Ministry Training Institute
graduation! Pablo taught both 2nd
and 3rd level students this year. He
had 15 students and taught "How to
Disciple New Believers," training
leadership so they can teach others!

Javier, a student from Chiapas
shared that he was so glad to learn
how to disciple others; to be able to
share with people systematically.
He liked that it was not difficult to
understand and very self-
explanatory. The way Pablo taught
them was very practical and Javier

shared that he was very excited to
begin discipling others.



Donato & Javier

Donato and Margarita are a couple
that are going to be moving to the
south of the Republic of Mexico.
Donato loves to share Jesus with
people and his gift is Evangelism.
They are being sent as missionaries
by a local church in the Ensenada
area. Donato mentioned that he
wished he would have known this
discipleship material before because
it is very practical, and he said that he
would be using the material wherever
the Lord sent him. Discipleship is the
other side of evangelism and we are
excited for how the Lord will use
them as they go...



Mid December Martha
finished off her ESL classes
for the winter break. Her
3rd year students completed
their level and in January
will move on to their 4th
and last level. They are all
fairly bi-lingual at this point but
getting into the nitty gritty of
grammar!





Rosaura is one of her students! When Rosaura began classes, Martha asked her why she wanted to learn English and she said that her goal was to be able to teach others. In October Martha got her a set of books that she could start from as well as the Teacher Guide. She also gave Rosaura the year of lesson plans and spelling list recordings, etc...everything she needed to start her own classes! Rosaura plans on beginning after the new year with youth and adults at her church!



Some of the First Level Students!

Martha has 21 First Level students this year! Two are elementary students who begged and begged to be in the adult class... There are several high-schoolers and the rest are adults! It is quite the class! Her students are FULL of energy and excitement to learn and one of her favorite things is watching their blank stares turn into "lightbulbs" of understanding moments! Their vocabulary and understanding is very limited as they only have 10 weeks under their belts but they are so excited to be learning!



At the end of every year we have a special meal with the Men's Group and our Couple's Small group and their families'. This year we decided to find a ranch with cows and horses and sheep and chickens to get the "stable smell!" We went early in the day and took our fire pit and wood. We set up a table for the meal and the owners of the ranch let us move hay bales into a circle around the fire pit! We told stories, laughed, rode one of their horses, told the Christmas story and ate good food! It was a very sweet and informal way to celebrate Jesus' birth and family!



The youth have been busy this season. They have worked hard on the drama "Punchinello" based on the Max Lucado book "Punchinello, One of a Kind" They have done the drama three times – once at one of our Casa de Pan Christmas Parties, once at our church and once at an elderly care



home. The youth saved their money and each bought a gift for their "adopted grand-parent." This year we have urged them to look outside themselves and serve others as we celebrate Jesus!



Our annual trip to Cuba is on the horizon! We will be flying out on January 29th The province of Ciego de Avila will be the location for our 11th DTI Conference in February 2018.



Our goal has always been to train local leadership, so they can teach others. So, for the first time, we will host a pre-conference workshop for our facilitators, digging deeper into the teachings on Abiding and Lordship and sharing testimonies and fellowship. We believe this additional time will help them continue to grow and be even more effective. Six new Facilitators joined us in the last session, and we expect more this time, as the passion for maturing believers increases each year.

The 5-day conference will be February 5-9. After the conference, Pablo and I will again be staying on until February 24th to travel to churches in the province and surrounding areas teaching the pre-marital counseling / crisis counseling material, as we did last year.

Please pray for the details!

- **Logistics** are always a challenge, so pray that they don't hamper the conference, including getting our visas from the Cuban government in time, travel and housing.
- **Please pray for the attendees** -- both Pastors and the facilitators, that nothing would hinder the Holy Spirit's working.
- **Please pray for each couple in leadership that will attend the marriage conferences.** Pray that they will be blessed in their own marriages as they learn how to teach and prepare others.

- Please pray for **finances** and consider whether God is prompting you to partner with us in this tactical way. Finances for:

- ⇒ **Cuban Pastors** (including the Cuban facilitators) have no financial means to attend the conference, since most make less than \$20/month.
- ⇒ **DTI (the organization that we travel with), pays for the entire conference** - lodging, meals, transportation, and conference materials. The cost for the **5 day conference is now about \$30 per attendee.**
- ⇒ Since we are expecting about 200 attendees, the **conference need is about \$6,000**, plus transportation and expenses for the traveling team (about \$1,500) and pre-conference of \$500 for **a total need of \$8,000.**
- ⇒ Pablo and I have traveled each year with the gift of air miles from a church in the U.S. They are no longer able to help us in that way. If you would like to contribute either **air miles or travel monies** for us, please send your tax-deductible donation to Link International! *If you would like to donate air miles, please contact us directly near the beginning of January so that we can apply them to our ticket purchase!

If you would like to sponsor a pastor or materials, please follow this link to give directly to DTI.
https://tithely.com/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/43692



Christmas traditions...piñatas, pozole, tamales and champurrado, Stollen on Christmas morning, visits from friends and spending sweet moments with family... In all of this—we remember the only TRUE reason for the decorations and music and joy of this season—is Jesus our...

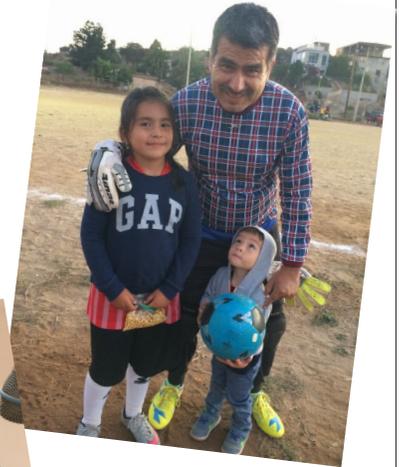
Holy, holy, Holy is the
LORD
 of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.
Isaiah 6:1



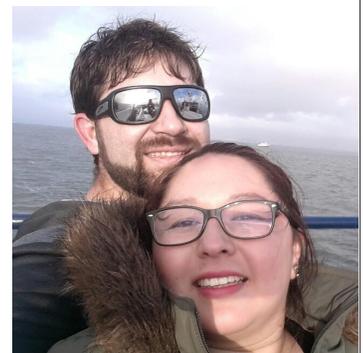
Pablo & Martha



Mischa 6 & Oliver 2



Family



Dearest of friends—Reid and Pablo playing in the desert—pre-running the Baja 1,000



Celebrating birthdays! Ollie, 2 and Uncle Mark 79!