

◆ The Garcia Gazette

Reaching Mexico and the Nations for Jesus

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Link International
Ministries



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Ensenada Mexico

Reaching Mexico and
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Dear friends and family,

"The cross changes everything." * This is something that is real to us – in our own lives and in the lives of the people that we walk with daily. The cross gives us a second chance instead of condemnation... the incredible gift of mercy that Jesus gave on the cross that allows us to *"rewind to innocence."* This newsletter is woven together with the threads of redemption's message to give you a glimpse of what you support both in prayer and in your finances for the ministry here on the mountainside of Ensenada!

"When sin and ugliness collide with redemption's kiss, beauty awakens..."

In our last newsletter we shared a story about our neighbors Gerardo and Janice. Their marriage and family life was, by all appearances, destroyed by their actions of hatefulness. The police wanted to take one of them to jail...but God had other plans! Plans of redemption and beauty! Pablo began discipling them as a couple the day after the crisis and they continue to meet once a week at 7:00 a.m. They have been embraced by our church members and the girls have begun attending youth group! The combination of one on one nurturing through discipleship and the active involvement of the church body has awakened such beauty that we cannot hardly believe that this is the same couple that was in so much pain.

Watching them is witnessing a miracle happen – and gives us a peak into the heart of God for each one of us! *"A second chance is Heaven's heart."*



Singing together on
Father's Day

Cuba Update!

Three of us made up the team going to Cuba this year! Frank Meitz, our fearless leader and Director of Operations at Discipler Training International (DTI), Cane Vega, a trainer from Mexicali, MX, who helped finish the Spanish translation of the DTI materials, and myself (Pablo)! Before traveling this time I had several unsettling thoughts regarding travel that got me on my knees. We had a few late takeoffs due to repairs on the airplanes but God was in every detail and he got us there and back safely! Thank you for your faithful prayers.



WE SERVE A "JUST-IN-TIME" GOD! We received email copies of the Cuban Religious Visas (required to board the plane in Miami) just several days before we departed, but the actual visas arrived at the Camaguey airport just one hour before we landed after an unanticipated all night bus trip from

Havana! (Original copies of the visas are required to clear immigration). Just one of many evidences that God is in complete control.

The first night in Las Tunas we were not able to stay at the hotel and so I was housed in a families' home that they board out. Upon arriving, the owner of the house began pouring her heart out to me. Her son had escaped Cuba by boat and the boat was caught and everyone returned with the exception of her son and 1 other man. They didn't hear from him for three months and in that time agonized over what the possibilities were that he was alive. Finally they heard from him and God had miraculously saved him over and over and prepared the way for a new life for him. He and his family have not seen each other for years and the woman sharing with me cried nightly and suffered terrible migraine headaches from the stress.

After sharing for a bit, her husband arrived home from work and I continued to share. They agreed to pray with me and they both accepted the Lord. We shared for many hours and prayed also for a complete healing of her emotions and body. The following morning she was like a new person and both she and

her husband were so amazed at the changes they were experiencing in such a short time! We were able to refer them to a local church which will follow up with them with discipleship! I praise God that even when our plans are detoured – God is there...

*“Oh Your cross, it changes everything.
There my world begins again with You.
Oh Your cross, it's where my hope restarts...”*

At the conference in Las Tunas we averaged 200 attendees each of the five days. There were 25-30 pastors and church planters and 175 church leaders, representing about 40 different churches. The conference organizers had to turn away many who wanted to attend because of the limited space. It was crowded and noisy! One classroom was next to the kitchen; two breakout groups were separated by only a chalkboard; street noise filtered into the building constantly; and the extreme heat and humidity also made it challenging. But their willingness to be there, their eagerness to learn, their desire to disciple others, and their passion for our God is so great that the environment was just a nuisance and not a deterrent.



GOD CONTINUES TO EQUIP NEW CUBAN TRAINERS! It was the first time to facilitate small group breakouts at a conference for five of the nine. We heard many great testimonies as a result of previous conferences of believers’ discipling others and the transformation process that is taking place in the lives of those being discipled.

PRAY ABOUT OUR RETURNING IN NOVEMBER: One confirmation that we are to be working in Cuba is how the “word of mouth” excitement from previous conferences has been spreading. Many were waiting for news of this conference in Las Tunas, and now are clamoring for us to return this November for a conference in Camaguey, the 2nd largest city in Cuba with over 1 million residents. They expect to have 400 attendees,



Province of Camaguey with the city in pink

which provides logistical challenges in having enough breakout space (where God really works in hearts through the small group sharing), and for the Cuban organizers in obtaining the huge

amount of food required to feed 400 people three meals a day! Pray for the potential to use a large camp facility owned by the government, and for His guidance.

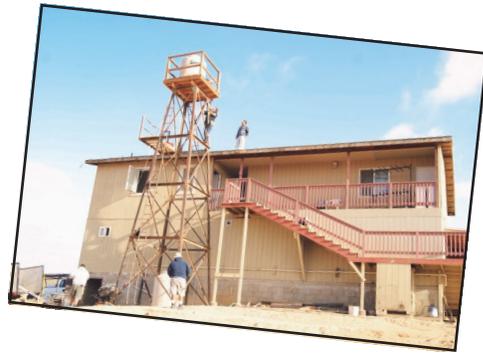
Both Martha and I have been invited to return in November. Would you or your church consider partnering with the Cuban believers? We have a short turnaround time to raise \$8,000 (\$20/attendee), plus personal expenses. If you would like to support this trip, you can do so by donating travel miles to help get us to Florida and back. You can also opt to sponsor a pastor(s) or leader(s) with a \$20 gift and as always, the finances for these trips is above our monthly budget... Thank you for always being so faithful with your prayers and financial gifts!



This week God is creating beautiful! Here in Ensenada Martha worked with a dental clinic at four different sites! 17 precious, skilled sets of hands arrived from San Francisco and went to work on needy mouths! Martha worked in triage funneling people to open chairs based on the personal needs of each person! Over the 4 days they saw 201 mouths – 103 cleanings, 82 patients in the restorative chairs receiving multiple fillings and chipped tooth repairs! There were 62 extraction patients that had numerous teeth out. Our record breaker was 8 teeth / root tips - on one mouth: four in the morning and he was so excited he came back for another four in the late afternoon!

Pablo spent this last week in Colonet with a youth group from Orange, CA. In 2007 Casa de Pan “House of Bread” (a kitchen with a hot meal program for indigenous children) was begun in Colonet. Over the years the building has gone up and thousands of meals have been served! Up until recently running water and electricity looked like a LONG ways off! The time is close!! We expect the electricity to get hooked up within the next few months and so preparations for that have begun! Also, a large tower has been erected and this trip the water was hooked up! ...Bathrooms finished (only tiling left), flowing water through real pipes, door frames hung, walls and floors painted, exterior painting, playground equipment painted and lots of informal playing with the children as well as a VBS program! And amidst it all, got a little World Cup Mexico game wiggled in there too!

The lives of both those who serve, the children, and the group participants have been touched and we thank the Lord for such a gift of love.



Notice the water!!!



Pablo & Martha

**"Second Chance" Lyrics by Rend Collective | from the album Homemade Worship By Handmade People*



Paneque and his wife Dulany
~ Organizers of this conference



Cane Vega of Mexicali, BC Mexico



Two break-out group areas separated by a chalkboard



Frank Meitz—Our team leader.



"Oh Your cross, it changes everything."



The inseparable team! Pablo and Frank



Taking the kids out for an afternoon pony ride!! Oh my! That's a goat!!