The Garcia Gazette

Reaching Mexico and the Nations for Jesus

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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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Greetings from beautiful Oregon! We are excited to share about all that has been happening in the ministry and what we are doing at this very moment!

Many missions organizations have a year of furlough after four years of service. Our ministry does not (and we're glad about that)! However, we have not taken a formal break since 2002. This last year we were *feeling it* and began prayerfully considering taking a short sabbatical. We spoke with our board, and it was approved! So, on April 8th we began a three-month sabbatical where our focus is "Searching for Shalom."

Sean Nemecek writes; "The Hebrew word shalom is commonly translated as "peace." But it means so much more. Derived from a root denoting wholeness or completeness, shalom is a blessing, a manifestation of divine grace. It also carries the connotations of soundness, health, safety, and provision. In short, shalom is living in the full experience of union with Christ...

"God has designed a simple way to experience greater wholeness of body, mind, emotions and soul – it's called Sabbath, another Hebrew word, which means to stop, cease, or rest. The Sabbath is God's way of giving us the shalom we so desperately need."

We are excited! We are pursuing Shalom through planned STOPPING, CEAS-ING, RESTING and purposeful study! We are visiting different churches and supporters along the way. We began in San Francisco – touching base with dear friends that we hadn't seen for years. Then we traveled to Oregon and here we are visiting dear friends and supporters and will be taking an online course called "Pass it On!" through HomeWord Ministries. This course certifies us for family ministry speaking and coaching. We finished Track 1 a couple of years ago and were in Cuba when they did the "in person" Track 2 training. Track 2 is what we are going to take this month. These tracks equip us and give us great resources to continue our marriage and family ministry. We will spend time "searching for Shalom" on a personal level in our Bibles and in prayer as well as personal reading we have been wanting to do. We are expectant and thankful for this time.

Leaving Oregon, we will travel on to Idaho, Arizona, and end our time in Alaska. We will return home to Mexico the beginning of July in time for visiting U.S. groups – refreshed and ready to continue with the work we have been called to do.



Before leaving Mexico, Pablo finished up work on a home where he framed in an addition and roofed the house for a dear friend who was our contact in the immigration department during all the years we worked at Agua Viva. He is not a believer but has grown very close to our family and we pray that God's grace be shown to him and his family through Pablo's gift of service and steadfast witness through the years.

Pablo also installed the windows and electrical wiring in Ezequiel and Patricia's house that had the roof and wall divisions completed last summer. This coming July they will have the plumbing installed! Woooohoooo!

Pablo's football team won 2nd place in the Summer/Fall tournament and came to the house to celebrate! We ate, laughed, and loved on them. Several players stayed long after the party was

over just to talk and enjoy the campfire on our porch.



Here is the story of one such player:

Noé has a history of being very problematic on the field. He was suspended from the league two times for using drugs and for threatening the ref. One of my [Pablo] players asked me if he could play on my team, and he told my captain that he would "behave".

Noe played in that tournament and did pretty good. After the tournament he decided to play on another team. He got himself in trouble again... He begged me to play on my team again and said that he should never have left. He told me that the team is good, that I'm a good coach and he had learned a lot of discipline. I pled his case with the league delegates, and they allowed him to play on my team on a trial basis.



Halfway through the tournament he didn't show up for two weeks in a row. I asked my players if they knew what was going on with him. One of them told me that he had had a terrible accident where he almost lost his hand. I contacted him personally and this is what unfolded from there:

Noe shared about his accident and that he'd be in recuperation for a long time. Things were hard. The government health department wasn't moving fast enough, and his hand was turning dark. He had to borrow money to do surgery in a private hospital. I told him that we were praying for him and that our team had raised money (2,500 pesos – about 125 dlls) to help him with some expenses. He was not expecting that, and it touched his heart. He was very grateful. He asked me to NOT stop praying for him and for the healing process of his hand.

When he came to pick up the money, I had a good conversation with him about Jesus. He told me that when he was little, he had gone to a Christian church near his home – but that he hadn't really made a decision to follow Jesus. He shared that he explored different religions, and we talked about how "religion and good deeds" don't save you – that Jesus is our only Savior. I explained that Jesus is different from all the religions that are proclaimed in the world. He is the only one who died and ROSE AGAIN to save us from our sins. And if we try to be saved with a few good deeds that we do, it cannot justify the many wrong ones. Only Jesus and His grace can justify us. He opened his eyes wide and said, "I have never looked at it that way."

I took him back to his house and when we got there, I asked him if I could pray for him. And he said yes. I prayed for healing for his hand and that he would be able to trust in Jesus as the true God. When we finished praying, he had tears in his eyes. He was so thankful and asked for continued prayers. I gave him a Bible and he told me that he is starting to read the book of Proverbs because we talked about making good decisions. Today he asked me to pray for him because he is very discouraged about his hand. He can't move it, and he knows the process will be long and hard. Please pray with us for a miracle in Noe's life and hand.

While we are on sabbatical, I continue sending him a daily devotional. I send him messages of encouragement and assurance that I continue to pray for him. When I return my prayer is that he will desire a deeper walk with the Lord and my hope is that he would be open for me to disciple him one on one.



♥Ben and Jeanelle are doing well. They continue to work and live in Oceanside, CA and we get to see them about

once a month. Mischa will be 14 this June and is finishing up her last year in middle school. She is beautiful and kind! Oliver is 9 and his passions are science and Jiujitsu. He is a bouncy, happy and sweet kiddo. ♥





♥Jacob and Elianet have been married for 1 1/2 years now and in March she was able to take a quick trip to Cuba to kiss family and get a needed dose of "home."

While we are gone, Jacob is leading the men's group and coaching the two soccer teams in our absence. Elianet oversees the

youth group and is throwing her energy into games and creative teaching! We are so thankful for their help so that we can have this time away. Pray for them!





Thank you very much for your continued prayers and support as we are on sabbatical. We send our love and look forward to seeing many of you on our journey!





Friends from San Francisco & Eagle Point, OR

