

# ◆ The Garcia Gazette

Reaching Mexico and the Nations for Jesus

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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

Financial Support  
may be sent to:  
Pablo & Martha Garcia  
Link International Ministries  
PO Box 4092  
Orange, CA 92863

Phone numbers:  
011-52-646-175-3529 Home  
011-521-646-171-6205 Cell  
619-628-9350 Magic Jack  
714-875-8982 Financial Ofc

E-Mail address:  
losgarcia4@gmail.com

Personal Correspondence  
may be sent to:  
Pablo and Martha Garcia  
4492 Camino de la Plaza  
PMB #503  
San Ysidro, CA 92173

Web-site  
www.linkintl.org

Dear friends and family,

*GREETINGS and BLESSINGS!*

**Happenings!** wordreference.com  
online dictionary says:

**happening** (hap'ə ning), n.

1. something that happens; occurrence; event.
2. an unconventional dramatic or artistically orchestrated performance, often a series of discontinuous [variable, irregular] events involving audience participation.
3. any event considered worthwhile, unusual, or interesting.

Well, in our household there are a lot of unconventional, dramatic, variable events involving audience participation! We have gone from Pablo and I, to + Edgar for the last year and a 1/2! To Pablo and I + Edgar + Jacob (for a month or two – while on disability leave) + Yanet (a young University



student that has been in our lives for the last three years and needed a nest until graduation next December)! My "snowbird" mama is also here during this time of the year!...And then add in the boys who come each day for lunch and we have a lot of "unconventional audience participation... considered WORTHWHILE, UNUSUAL AND INTERESTING"!!

Each lunchtime meal is precious. Lots of noise and ruckus up to the moment we are all gathered at the table and then the temporary silence of filling...followed by devotions and conversation. It is truly amazing and we thank all of you who are involved in supporting the ministry here and what it means to each life being touched.



## "Community Happenings!"

In March we worked alongside a couple of groups that came to Ensenada! We shared with you last letter about one of those groups: a handful of skilled men that were to come down to help rebuild a house for Jorge and Lucy, both disabled, and their two toddlers. In mid October, Lucy, who is blind, and her two children were in the house. She was doing chores while the children played...



the television on... A spark and the house was up in flames. Lucy's sister in law saw the flames and came running, rescuing them all. But half of the house was destroyed. At our last writing, the house had been gutted, supports installed and a second story put on.



The men that came and some of the youth and men from our church installed electricity and plumbing, windows, doors and roofing paper.

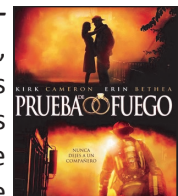


They built room divisions and installed kitchen cabinets and a sink! What an incredible blessing to bestow on this humble family. They gave them security and dignity! Thank you TACC men for your serving hands!



## "Marital Happenings"-

Over the last few months, nine different couples have come to talk with us about the intense struggles that they are living in their homes. Many of them are hanging by a thread and in fact at this writing; one of the men has left his wife... There is just not enough time to counsel each one of these couples individually, so we opened up a small group for marriages in crisis. We have now met twice with those seven couples who accepted the invitation to come.



The curriculum that we are currently using is six weeks long. Following these six weeks we are going to have a pot-luck dinner and will continue with another bible study for marriages. We have invited the collaboration of Brent and Allyson Searway for the following study. They have given marriage seminars at their church in Ensenada and in the south of Mexico. Please pray for these couples. Strong families are the foundation of a strong church and Satan has come to hurt and destroy.



Pre-marital counseling is the happy side of counseling where many problems can be addressed before bad habits and destructive behaviors begin; a place where issues can be talked about that young couples may not even know they will face after saying "I do." We are so excited to have begun pre-marital counseling with Elias and Maddie! They are a bi-cultural relationship, like we are, so it is extra special for us! Pray for them as they prepare for this huge life-step!

**"Cuba Happenings!"** Pablo and I have had it heavy on our hearts for the last many years that it is of extreme necessity, in addition to training leaders for biblical discipleship, to train leaders to give marriage and pre-marital counseling. Every trip that we go for discipler training, in the evening sessions, Pablo and I are in another room counseling a pastor and his wife or leaders that are in terrible crisis. We have seen first-hand that the divorce rate is extremely high and commonplace even amongst Christians.



In a 2015 study it showed that Cuba has the highest divorce rate among all countries in Latin America, at 56%. "There are several reasons for why Cuba has such a high divorce rate. The first has to do with the island's terrible housing shortage as well as high poverty which forces married couples to live with their in-laws and other relatives. As you can imagine, having to live with so many other people can cause a strain on even the best of marriages. The poor economic conditions don't help either.



"Cuba's laissez-faire approach to divorce also contributes to its high divorce rate. It's cheap and effortless, costing a couple about the equivalent of four U.S. dollars and twenty minutes of time. Because of the poverty, there are few possessions to divide, making divorce a truly simple process." <http://records.com/countries-with-the-highest-divorce-rates>

In November, after the conference, we met with the Hermanos en Cristo leadership and we set the Discipler Training Conference for January 2017. In order to maximize resources and minimize expenses, we are planning and praying to do back-to-back conferences in Cienfuegos and Villa Clara provinces.

That will mean 2 weeks of conferences. Then - Pablo and I have prayerfully considered and spoken with the leadership there and would like to stay on for another month to work with the leaders, giving and training for marriage counseling to address this need. Please pray with us regarding this dream and desire – that it would be God's plan.

One more item about the two loves of our heart: Mexico and Cuba! Two of the trainers that we have worked with for the last several years, Cesar and Roxana, are extremely dynamic – lovers of God – dedicated to ministry – and have the desire to be equipped and trained in leadership. We have been praying and are in the process of working to bring them here to Ensenada to attend the Ministry Training Institute (MTI) at Agua Viva.



MTI provides Biblical training and practical preparation designed specifically to equip missionaries, church planters, pastors and lay leaders. There is nothing like this type of training in Cuba and because it is only in three month chunks, it is practical for being able to take a break in ministry and learn, learn, learn and then return to ministry.

We are so excited for what this would mean for their ministry. Please pray with us! We have already sent them the necessary funds for their passports. They will receive them on the 25<sup>th</sup> of this month. There are three churches as well as Agua Viva that are extending invitations to come to Mexico and with those things in hand, we will purchase round-trip tickets for their travel and send them the original letters and plane tickets and pray for open doors at the Mexican Consulate in Cuba.

Obviously this means money! We have priced the tickets and they are about \$1,200 for both of them. When they get here, Pablo and I will be supporting their day to day personal needs. Agua Viva has graciously offered them a scholarship to cover their tuition at the school. If you can and would like to support them, please let us know and you can send your checks directly to the PO Box in Orange. (\*Please do not send through PayPal as anything having to do with Cuba still gets flagged and confiscated—for months until things are cleared up!) 100% of your donations for Cuba go directly to our trips, and in this case, for the support of travel expenses and personal needs for Cesar and Roxana.

So much news...so many prayer requests! So many **happenings** and so WORTHWHILE! Thank you for standing with us! We love you!



Pablo & Martha