

◆ The Garcia Gazette

Reaching Mexico and the Nations for Jesus

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Link International
Ministries



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Reaching Mexico and
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Blessings dear friends,

We send greetings from our hearts to yours. We hope that this letter finds you well – and enjoying the summer sunshine! We are excited to share some of the highlights of the last few months!



BayMarin Church of San Francisco came to serve with a VBS program for the children, the painting of a BEAUTIFUL mural on our Casa de Pan wall, and a team of dentists!

On the first day of the clinic, a young man named Israel with developmental and speech disabilities came in requesting help. He showed us that he was hurting in the back of his mouth. Throughout much of the day, he begged to be helped but he had arrived alone. I (Martha) sent a note to his parents asking someone to come so that we could have permission to help him. No one came. Hours passed and he continued to ask for help. So, I asked him to take me to his house. Another young man from our church and I walked to Israel's house not knowing what we would find. His parents were not home and an older brother was there to "watch out" for him. His brother walked back with us and told us that we could not do anything since Israel's mom wasn't there. Then he went through the intake desk and laid down in a dental chair for treatment. As you can imagine, Israel got so upset. He had waited all day and not been helped and his

brother arrived and was taken right in. So, a few of us began to advocate for Israel – for at least a cleaning... Israel was stinky, loud, and demanding. The head dentist asked if anyone wanted to give him a cleaning. Two dentists volunteered right away and together began to take care of his needs. It was not easy. It was not pretty. But it was beautiful. As soon as he was finished, he ran and hugged his pastor, showing off his clean and shiny teeth. He was laughing and smiling and showing everyone. It was one of those God moments when you know that God is smiling down because **one of His** was loved and cared for.

"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day."
- Sally Koch



Taft Avenue Community Church came to work at our

mission in Colonet, bringing a VBS program for the children, a community work project, and the continuing of the finish details on Casa de Pan. Lupita is a volunteer cook at Casa de Pan in Colonet, where they feed 40-50 indigenous children 5 days a week. She is not paid anything other than a love offering here and there – she gives the gift of her service because she loves Jesus and loves the children. Two years ago we built onto a small room that the family lived in, giving them 2 bedrooms in addition to the existing living space.

I want
my life
to make
God smile...

At that time we poured the



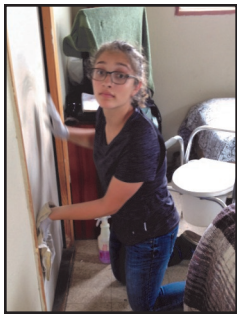
foundation and built the rooms. However, the floor of their home remained dirt. Two years later, we really felt in our hearts that we needed to help her and her family in the completion of the project we had begun. In talking to Pastor Pedro, he agreed! When we arrived in Colonet, Lupita and her family had already moved all their belongings into the yard and we went in and in just a couple of days were able to pour the 2 bedrooms, kitchen and living room! Something so very BASIC—a floor—that we don't even think about it...but such a blessing to this beautiful family!

The next morning when Lupita got to Casa de Pan, she told us that her son, Edgar, age



7, was so happy to **NOT** have a dirt floor! As soon as he got home from school he threw his blanket on **his new cement floor** and laid on it to do his homework! Another God moment! We know God was looking down and smiling! These moments change lives and hearts.

Laina is a young lady from Orange, CA that is staying with us for 3 weeks to serve and to learn Spanish. Last week 5 of us went to visit Javier! Laina, Julio, Edgar, Pablo and I went with broom and mop, cleaning supplies and bucket and



hearts to gift him with a clean house to surround his difficult life. We all worked so hard and at the end of the few hours, Javier's house sparkled!

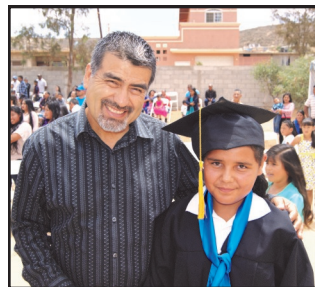


Walls and windows, doors and floors and the bathroom were all spotless! We drove home with soaring hearts knowing that the

tiny gift we gave made God smile as His child was served and blessed!

Milestones:

Julio is the young man that we told you about in our last newsletter that has received an education scholarship to go to high school...a possibility and was otherwise unattainable and his dream for a different life! On June 25th he graduated – with a 3.89 GPA! He will begin college in January.



Raquel is a young girl from Colonet who lost her mother two years ago in a horrible crime. She is being raised by her grandparents, Pastor Pedro and Maria Elena. She does not have a relationship with her father and has always been very reserved with Pablo. Three weeks ago she asked him if he would be her sponsor for her graduation from sixth grade! For us, this was very meaningful and we are so happy to be a part of her life!

A fun note about Raquel! Several years ago, Valley Community Church from Pleasanton brought a group down to teach cake decorating. Her grandmother and mother took the class and from there began making the cakes for all of the different Casa de Pan events. Raquel loved to watch their creativity! After her mother died, her grandma began teaching her how to decorate cakes and she has grown quite proficient! After her graduation, we had a celebration dinner with her family and friends and guess who brought the cake? Raquel! In the midst of heartbreak, there is celebration... Celebration of accomplishments, celebration of life! Please remember Raquel as she moves up to junior high facing so many obstacles.



Thank you for being a vital part of each of these people's stories... Thank you for your prayers and faithful support. May God use you to make Him smile!



Pablo & Martha