

# *iVámonos!*

May 2015

**Dear friends and family,**

We hope you are all doing well and enjoying spring. Here in San Antonio we have had good weather. Everything is green and we haven't had any days over 90. Praise God! In April, we had a group from the Epic Church in Baltimore, Maryland. They came last year and worked at the El Camino church. They fell in love with the people, especially pastor David and his wife Berta, so they wanted to come back and bring more people. That was great with us, but Pastor David had been transferred by the Methodist church to serve in another city. The good news was the church had a new pastor from Mexico City. His name was also David and his wife is Marlen. We went to meet them and told them we had a group that wanted to come and do some construction and a Bible School for the children. They were excited, but, also nervous, as they had never worked with Americans before.



**The Epic Church gang from Baltimore**

but when the kids were in middle school and high school they came for weeks at a time working on whatever needs we had. We loved them then, and still do! Nicole their oldest daughter and her husband, Dan, were on this trip. What a treat to see them and the way they were challenged over the course of the week.

On Sunday morning, we attended service at the El Camino church. There were lots of hugs, music and a great service. One of the guys from the church was really good leading the worship and had a great singing voice. His name was Nacho and he came to the VBS the next day with his wife and little girl. He started to talk to George and told him he attended a VBS when he was a small

boy and remembered a magic trick George used to teach the children about sin, and that Jesus was the only one who could take away that sin. He said he became a Christian during one of those classes. He said he liked the guitar George played and wanted to do that when he was older. He still remembered all the songs we sang so many years ago. He also told George that he, his wife and little girl go down to southern Mexico, where they have family, and hold a week long VBS every summer. George was overwhelmed. What a reminder that so many times we get caught up in the con-



**The Americans lead singing at VBS**



**On the left, Nacho tells his story to our interpreter, Vanessa. On the right, Nacho relates to George and Jan how he came to know Jesus through VBS.**



**Two ladies remember Jan from when they were just little girls.**

struction, and the poverty, and the ugly dogs and we don't remember what we are really there for. God sent us to be his hands, feet and voice, telling others about Him, and that is the most important thing. The construction project is just an excuse to be there. We asked how we could help him in his ministry this summer. He needs crafts, crayons and small toys for the children. So we will be providing them. If you would like to help, just send a check saying you want to help Nacho.

George was very humbled to know God used him, his little magic trick and his guitar to reach a small boy who now is serving in the church and doing VBS hours away from Reynosa. The next day, Jan was leading some songs at the VBS and two ladies came up after the VBS and said they remembered her teaching songs, and Bible lessons. They brought their children to the VBS and were happy to hear their children singing the same songs they used to. But most of all that they were hearing the Bible lessons. They don't attend the church but said they would start.



Please pray they will. When you give your life to God he uses you, but many times you don't see the fruit. We are thanking God for giving us that special gift.

By the end of the week, the bulk of the work was completed, and we averaged over 80 children a day in VBS. Pastors David and Marlene were very happy, excited and sad the group was leaving. They held a prayer time for the group and many lives were changed and challenged. Sometimes we think mission trips are all about helping the people we came to serve. But we have seen many changes and challenges for people who feel God calling them to change their lives and even their jobs. Our first mission trip was to the Dominican Republic. We went to help our son who was the youth pastor of our church, but God was sending us to make a change in our lives. Four years later



**The Gonzalez family with the new camp "limosine".**

we quit our jobs, sold our home and served God in Reynosa, Mexico. Please pray for the group from the Epic Church, and especially Pastor Chris and family who came with the group. His wife has been very ill and she is undergoing treatment, so it's been a very difficult time for her and the entire family.

We also received word that the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Anna, Illinois just lost his small son last week. His death was very sudden and a shock to the entire church community. We would asked that you keep that family in your prayers, as well, in this very difficult time.

In more "business" news, we have purchased a new vehicle for the camp. Hugo, Sylvia and family came and picked it up a few weeks ago. It is a 2007 GMC Envoy with only 42,000 miles. It cost a little more than we had planned, but we feel it is worth the price. We will be taking a trip up north to visit family. We will see Jan's mom, she is 96, and her sister and family in Indiana. Then we will go to South Carolina to visit our grandson, David, and his family. We haven't met baby Gavin yet. Then we will spent time in Brighton visiting our son, daughter in law and two grandchildren. We will also spend some time visiting some supporters and George's brother. We so look forward to visiting our family. Please pray as we travel around that it will be a real blessed time.

When we arrive home we will get ready for three groups coming in July. Usually we have groups coming in June, but this year they will be coming later, as the schools in Reynosa don't get out until the end of June, so we don't get many kids for VBS. We praise God for keeping us healthy and eager to do His will.

*Dios Le Bendiga*

*George and Jan*

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## Praise and Prayer List

### Praises:

A great time with our friends from Anthe Epic Church in Baltimore.  
Still no Americans affected by any Mexico violence  
Increase in American church groups scheduled for this year We hope for about 120 people  
Success of our in-home Bible study  
Our new camp vehicle

### Prayer requests:

Pastor Chris (Epic Church) and family as wife and mom work toward full recovery  
Pastor Jonathan (First EPC) and family in the loss of their son.  
More American churches to put aside their fears and return to help the Mexican churches..  
Remaining Vamonos financial and labor needs at the camp  
Sale of our old camp pickup truck to offset overage of new SUV purchase  
Safe travel on our upcoming trip  
Our grandson, David, his wife, Megan, as they adjust to life with one toddler and one newborn.