

◆ The Garcia Gazette

Reaching Mexico and the Nations for Jesus

August 2023

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:
011-52-646-171-6205 Cell
619-628-9350 US Cell
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
<http://linkintl.org/>

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Dear friends and family,

Psalm 118:14 The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

It is summer, and the hills are brown and dry – but lives are lush and fruitful! We are so excited to share with you about some of those lives!

We have had several youth activities – at the beach, Ultimate Frisbee on the field, watching “The Chosen” and the young people are excited! A couple of those young people are Pedro and Emily. They came from a state in the south of Mexico with their parents, escaping from the cartel.

At first, the family was forced to pay “protection” money, then later the father of the family was forced to work for them. Then the cartel wanted their teen aged kids to work for them – and if they did not, they would pay with their lives. (This is the second of three families that have escaped from this same state and first - found refuge in our neighborhood and church, and second in receiving Jesus as their Lord and Savior).

On the first Sunday in Ensenada, Hector, the father, received the Lord. The following Sunday, Mayra, the mother and three kids; Pedro, Emily and Karen accepted Jesus! They joined our marriage group and continued with a six-month commitment to a class on Inner Healing taught by fellow missionary, Allyson Searway. As we watch them grow, it is amazing to see the freedom that they are living – in every way. They had been emotionally, physically, and spiritually held captive and now they are FREE! The joy that they express is contagious! Recently we had baptisms and their whole family (except for little Karen), were all baptized! What a day! What a celebration.



Hector, Mayra, Emily, Pedro, and another church member, Lily were baptized in July!



Last week we were privileged to serve alongside ST. BARNABAS | MAYO CLINIC | RLC & FRIENDS MEXICO MEDICAL MISSION as they blessed Ensenada with their service of love to the poorer communities. It was the first time to serve together since 2019 after 24 years of continuous service. The Covid crisis kept us apart temporarily, but this year was a celebration of being back together to serve our community.



A few statistics! There were many specialties brought—general med, cardiology, pediatrics, gynecology, psychology, dental and optometry. There was also a station for hair cutting and a commissary for giving out basic needed items.

There were 48 on the U.S. team and 46 of us on the Ensenada team! During

the four clinic days, all specialties combined, we saw 1,100 patients.

*Special note: Pedro and Emily are sporting sparkling white smiles as teeth were cleaned and cavities filled... the whole family was seen by doctors of different specialties. God is so generously good.

** Please see the last page which has more pictures from the clinic.



Sunday was the Spring/Summer 2023 Tournament Final!! Pablo's team made it to the finals and won First Place!! They had made it to the finals several tournaments in a row, but it was their turn to WIN!



Later that evening we all got together on our porch and ate Ceviche tostadas and CELEBRATED! As we ate, some of the guys began reminiscing about when they started to play under “Coach Pablo” in 2004 when they were just 10 and 11 years old! Now they were sitting with wives or girlfriends, some with children. Our prayer is that they see Jesus with our actions and hear Jesus in our words. They definitely know how much we and JESUS love them!



The Team Captain

This week we had a group visiting from Valley Community Church in Pleasanton, CA. The main group worked in another part of town building a house! The first part of the week two of the men came and worked alongside Pablo to repair and re-roof a couple of our stand-alone Sunday school rooms. On Thursday we took our youth group to meet up with them at the beach for a bonfire with hotdogs and smores, a devotional and fellowship! Friday morning the whole group came to the church to do some finish work on the roof project, to paint and to take a couple of blessing baskets to two needy families in our church.



And in between all the activity – the celebrations of God’s salvation, goodness, and generosity, we are preparing for Cuba!!



Jacob went ahead of us, leaving July 4th and will be there two months before our arrival. He is working with the leadership there, preparing for the DTI and Couples conferences – getting food and supplies, visiting, and encouraging churches that have been through the training, serving wherever needed.



Once again, we will travel with our leaders, Frank and Jeannette Meitz.

Pablo and I have been working with our Cuban leadership as they prepare for the general sessions that they will be leading. This is something new – for each of them to teach a general session, as well as the breakout groups. (A lot of preparation was done for this last year as we translated the prompt notes on the PowerPoint slides).

Our team will arrive three days before the conference to join with our Cuban Leadership Team to continue to equip and encourage them in their ongoing and fruitful discipleship efforts. These pre-conference reunions are a celebration of sharing what God is doing in all of our lives and ministries.

Pastors and leaders from Havana are the focus for this trainer’s event. They will travel the 170 miles from Havana to Palmira to the conference center. Even now they are trying to reserve their tickets on public transportation, as demand is more than supply, and fuel is uncertain.

Inflation in Cuba is 45% higher in 2023 than last year... and in 2022 was 39% greater than the year before! That means food, gasoline, electricity, and water are in short supply, and now cost MUCH MORE -- when they can get these necessities. In fact, daily staples -- such as bread and milk, flour, sugar, salt... are in short supply.

We are praying that we have enough gasoline to run a generator (gifted to the Church) to provide the Conference Center with electricity, due to the unpredictable daily rolling blackouts. This means preparation for the conference is extremely complicated and will cost SIGNIFICANTLY MORE than any previous conference. Whereas before COVID, \$10 would pay for one attendee for the WEEK, this year, food alone will cost a minimum of \$10 / DAY.

This is also true of the couples’ conference that will be held the following week. Pray for us as we prepare personally for our teaching at both conferences. Pray for the finances needed. We have our plane tickets, but we only have about half of what we need for the couples’ conference. God is our provider, He is our Salvation, He is generous, and He is good. We invite you to join us in prayer and in financial gifts for these endeavors.

Our Schedule!



2023	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		28	29	30	31	1	2
SEPT	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Final prep and Meeting with Prayer Group			Flight into Havana & Travel to Cienfuegos	Cuban teachers arrival. Meetings and preparation for conference	
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Church in Palmira	Discipler Training Conference					
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Church in Palmira	Couples' Conference					
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Visit church in Camarones	Hernandez Family			Mission Church in Cienfuegos		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Final Sunday in Palmira Church	Mission Church in Mayaguez & Havana	Flight Home				

Pray for our 15th DTI Discipleship Conference: Sept 11-15 \$80 will sponsor one pastor for the week!
 We have 2/3 of what is needed for DTI
 And our 5th year ministering to couples Sept 18-21 \$140 will sponsor a couple!

Psalm 118:14 The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.



Pablo & Martha

Celebrate!

Adults waiting & kids waiting!



First step: triage



Reuniting with dear friends

Being treated!!



Optical

Dental



A gift of 6 dental units given to the head dentist, Dr. Victor, that has dreamt of having his own equipment to serve the poor of Ensenada.

The units put to work!



And look who came to visit!! Ollie enjoyed the kids program and Mischa helped the eye doctors and pharmacy getting much needed supplies that will be taken to our friends in Cuba.

