

2019

Feb

Thanks: One major prayer request is for more rain. . . farmers crops are dying in our area. . . No one will reimburse them for failed crops. Also, please remember our ‘*water technicians*’ . . . This is **exhaustive manual labor!** We see sales are up – hurray! – but not to the extent that it could offset clinic costs. And yet, we cannot thank Our Father for multiple blessings. . . we think back on 20 years ago and can only marvel “***How very great Thou art!***” If you had been here 20+ years ago this was a barren, waste land. . . except for a little church and poachers trying to survive the gang warfare-shootings *every* night- drugs- blatant prostitution and on and on. How we wish you could see the incredible miracle that only a mighty God could perform on this pathetic, impoverished community. . . For us, when we don’t seem to be getting things done fast enough and the Ministerio de Salud (Health Department) is asking us to make *another* costly change in the clinic we just sit down and recall the past. . .and wish each of you that have supported this mission could totally experience 20+years of miracles in ‘El Floron’. Thank you, thank you very much.

Prayers: For the family of Dr. Pedro del Hierro who joined his Jesus this morning. You may recall that he has been battling not only cancer but undergoing dialysis three times a week plus chemotherapy. It is thought that during his chemotherapy he suffered a heart attack. His suffering is over though his wife Rosa and their remaining son and family and many others will miss this great man He began way over 60 churches with Christian schools and a Christian University. . . He now may rest from his Christian labors. May all be comforted by his example.



Pastors Pedro and Rosa

Mar/Apr

Sewing Classes: Once again we were blessed to have the professional seamstress Maria Angelica give sewing lessons to the women in Floron. The sewing classes will be finishing the second week of April. This has been a wonderful means for women to come together in a very ‘untypical’ way for themselves. . . although at times a child may accompany mom or grandma to class. Their day to day lives are difficult and quite frankly *living on the edge* as we watch them struggle to have enough food, keep their children clothed and clean, and husbands that have no work.



Mid-Week School: Loly along with sister Ariana and Diana (A Nursing student at the university is also sponsored by another American family) started to hold a mid-week church school for the impoverished kids of Floron 8 at the small chapel mostly ‘disassembled’ by the earthquake 3 years ago. There are currently 20 children in attendance.



Dolores (affectionately called Loly)

May

Refugees: Venezuelan Refugees continue to line the streets of Portoviejo; they are hopeful we will allow them to wash your windshield or sell cocoanut water for *any* amount. Even though it has been Dra. Silvia's vacation she has been acutely aware of needs – she has delivered diapers and sent some to Buen Samaritano with medical needs. Thanks to the individuals that contributed financially specifically for diapers and for the diaper donations that Richard took down on this trip. Our October Medical Mission we will spend at least one, possibly two days out of the five in treating Venezuelan Refugees. Dra. Silvia has spoken with her pastor and their church will be used for this purpose. In the past the youth of this congregation have been serving Saturday meals to the refugees. The Missionary Alliance Church is strategically located in Portoviejo on the main highway where many of the Venezuelans line the street to wash car windows. We talked with an Ecuadorian pediatrician friend to inquire about the situation.

Education: Genesis who is the sister of Diana, who is going through nursing school due to assistance by a generous couple at church. Now, this dear couple are also helping Genesis who is going through nurse's aide training. Hope you 'enjoy' this picture of Genesis taking a stab at her suturing



Diana

Aug

VBS plus: Both grandkids Casten and Kaiya Wilks along with a mini-team (Lexi, Kirsten, Dr. Heather) from Colorado Springs, CO visited Floron to work and hold a VBS. Kaiya was part of the 'mini mission team' that held a Vacation Bible School in Floron 8. This energetic team held a morning and afternoon session; and they did receive some translating help from Loly (our office manager at the clinic), Diana and Genesis from the church. But take a look, I'd definitely say love, laughter and hugs won out over language issues. . . Absolutely amazing how the Holy Spirit can bubble up and unite complete strangers.



Lexi, Kirsten, Genesis, Loly, Dr. Heather, Kaiya



Kirsten

After Hours: Playing soccer!



Lexi and Kirsten mixing it up with the local girls!

They also played with the guys at a soccer field down the street.



Top (L->R): Cristhian (night guard), Piter (Pastor Gruezo's son), Casten, Kaiya (grandkids), Lexi, Kirsten (CO springs).

Bottom (L->R): Jose (water), Isaac (Pastor Gruezo's son), Jorge (water), Michael (water), Pepe (water)

Work: Casten worked with the four water technicians and volunteered to relieve Pastor Mesa from the odious, annual job of cleaning three water tanks that are on the roof to collect rainwater. Yes, you see black but that's because the rain cleans the collected dust off the roof which settles to the bottom.



Casten

and Pastor Meza

New Equipment: Fervent prayers and contributions – might I add – some very unexpected contributions have allowed us to purchase an electrocardiogram to be used by a cardiologist willing to come in one morning a week. See pic below with the ‘first patient’: Pastor Meza.



Tiles (finally!): we were able to begin preparing the walls that are constantly peeling paint (which the Health Department has certainly noticed and commented on.) due to the humidity. Ceramic tiles will be put halfway up the walls. We were coughing on all the dust from scraping paint but are thanking the Lord for the surprise funding provided for this major project!



OCT:

Another great medical team decided to still come in the midst of a national strike due the lifting of government subsidies for gas and diesel by President Moreno. What initially ensued was the indigenous marching on Quito to peacefully protest but the president wouldn't back down. Military involvement was ordered. All taxis, buses and trucks ceased to run and blockaded the roads and bridges. This created problems and careful planning in order to safely run the medical clinics by the visiting team.

The team came with 450 + hand-made backpacks fitted with toothbrush/toothpaste/deodorant/Bible/crayons, etc. They had to spend the night in the Quito airport.



Suitcases were unpacked



Mission was accomplished!





