

New Hope Mission Trip

IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH MEXICAN
MEDICAL MISSIONS



Mission Trip Overview

Our team consisted of 13 dedicated members at La Esperanza (about 5 to 6 hours south of San Diego down the Baja Peninsula) from Sunday, June 9th to Friday, June 14th. We partnered and worked with Mexican Medical Ministries. Booky and Theresa Lewis are the missionaries stationed there. (They often attend New Hope when in San Diego.) Here's a brief overview of our activities throughout the week:

Each day a team of 3 served as our cooks and meal preparers for that day. We ate very well with most of the food we brought down with us. After breakfast, each team member dedicated time for personal quiet reflection. Everyone received a handout with a special daily devotional tailored for our mission trip. Following this, we gathered for chapel time, led by the missionaries, which proved to be very inspirational and uplifting for the entire team.

Work Projects

Each morning, our team focused on two major work projects:

- Land Clearing:** We worked to clear a piece of land purchased by the mission, located across the dirt road from one of the largest migrant worker camps, home to over 2,000 tomato field workers and their families. This is an incredibly God-given, strategic piece of property which will serve the community's needs. Plans include constructing a multi-purpose building that will feature:
 - A kitchen to serve meals
 - A daycare facility
 - Rooms for clothing, hygiene products, and food distribution
 - Spaces for Bible studies and worship
- Painting:** While one group was busy clearing land, the other team stayed at the mission compound to paint the exterior of dorms and classrooms. We chose a lovely yellow paint that brightened the area and contributed to a welcoming atmosphere.

These projects not only made a tangible impact but also fostered teamwork and camaraderie among us.

Our team completed this land clearing project in just three days, including digging a six-foot deep hole for an outhouse.





Vacation Bible School

After lunch, the highlight of our trip for most team members was conducting a Vacation Bible School (VBS). For the first time, the missionaries wanted to hold VBS on-site to foster relationships with the surrounding community. We partnered with a team from our host church for this special event. Children ranging from preschool to elementary age, along with some teenagers, were delightful and incredibly sweet, kind, and very appreciative. Many arrived early to play, enjoying activities like jump rope, bubbles, soccer and other games.

The VBS featured a western cowboy theme. We brought cowboy hats and bandanas for all the children, who loved wearing them each day. The children were broken into groups of 6 to 8, with most team members serving as group leaders. They enjoyed singing and enthusiastically participated in the hand and foot motions that accompanied the songs. The team from the host church led our singing time. The pastor effectively shared the Bible story, captivating the children's attention. After the Bible story, we facilitated craft time using supplies we brought along. The children loved creating their crafts and eagerly took them home each day.

Overall, the VBS was a memorable experience that strengthened our connection with the community and brought joy to both the children and our team.





Evening Activities

Each night brought meaningful opportunities for our team to engage with the community. On Monday night, we divided into teams with members of the local church to pray for individuals in their church family whom they hadn't seen for a while. This effort fostered connection and support within the community. On Wednesday night, the church hosted a community party, inviting everyone from the surrounding neighborhood. We grilled over 200 hotdogs and helped serve the food. The event included singing and a brief message from the pastor, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

During the party, we recognized several people our groups had visited on Monday night. One family, in particular, expressed our visit and prayers were a sign from God encouraging them to return to church. It was incredibly heartening to see this family attending the Wednesday night outreach event! These experiences reinforced the impact of our mission and strengthened the bonds within the community.

We had a special heartfelt sharing time among our team on Thursday night. It was touching to hear how each member had been impacted by the trip, with many emotions running high and even a few teary moments. We spent Friday morning cleaning the facility to leave it in good condition before heading back to San Diego. As we departed, we carried with us the memories and lessons from an unforgettable week.

Most Memorable Moment

One of my favorite and most memorable experiences of the trip was picking up some of the children in our van from the surrounding neighborhoods. On the second day, we went to collect a few children we had picked up on Monday who lived over a mile away. As we approached their neighborhood, we spotted three of the children—two preschoolers and their older sister, who was about ten—walking along the narrow, two-lane road heading toward the church. This road was quite dangerous, especially for young kids.

We stopped to pick them up and asked why they were walking. The older girl explained that she was afraid we had forgotten them, so they decided to walk. It was well over a mile to the church! I was truly taken aback by how much the VBS meant to these children. It highlighted the importance of our efforts and the strong desire they had to participate. This moment really deepened my appreciation for the impact we were making in their lives.



Be Mission Minded

My hope and prayer is that each person at New Hope will go on a mission trip like this. It is truly a life-changing experience. The cost set by Mexican Medical is only \$400. Of this amount, \$210 goes to Mexican Medical to pay for our lodging and work project materials needed. The remaining \$190 covers our food, lodging, transportation, and health insurance policy while in Mexico. The timing of our trip is around the second week of June before the impact of the summer heat.

Final Thoughts

If you have any questions about the trip or wish to learn more, please feel free to contact me. Additionally, I encourage you to connect with those who have already experienced this journey firsthand. Their insights can provide valuable perspectives and detailed information to address any queries you may have effectively.

Also here is a video QR code to hear from a few of the team members who were able to record a brief testimony about their mission trip experience.

Thanks again for all your support!!! Your prayers made a HUGE difference. I hope you will consider going on this trip next June.

Pastor Russ
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Mission Team Members

- Dante Ralph (student)
- Nelson Ralph (student)
- Erika Sanchez Roman
- Dasio Baldoni (student)
- Vic Baldoni
- Leila Manuel (student)
- Rooch Manuel
- Mary Sol Olmos
- Mark Ralph
- Doug Wolf
- Natalie Wolf (student)
- Veronica Wolf (student)



**Scan to hear
our team's
Mission Trip
Testimonies**