

DESTINO CRISTIANO

A SPIRIT-FILLED, BILINGUAL CHURCH IN LA PAZ, MEXICO

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From Planting to Building

By Pastor Jerry

Exactly two years ago, April 1st, 2013, we left Medford, Oregon, for the mission field in La Paz. While we were sure about God directing us south of the border, we had no idea what would happen once we landed in the city. Thankfully, the Lord led us to the corner of Allende and Ramírez. We opened our doors as Destino Cristiano in December of 2013.

Many of you have followed our adventures on Twitter, Facebook, Jamee's blog and through this quarterly newsletter. But if you have missed anything, here's a partial list of what's happened:

- Planted the church
- Started the Solid Rock Road recovery ministry in English and Spanish
- Started Saturday Children's Craft and Bible School
- Facilitated multiple salvations baptisms
- Partnered with Nueva Creacion orphanage
- Created tours at the orphanage for the English-speaking community
- Connected with a Christian recovery ministry in Todo Santos
- Established "The Gathering" on Wednesdays for teaching and training
- Opened a local pantry
- Held post-hurricane fundraisers to provide food and supplies for the orphanage.
- Established bilingual services
- Prepared to launch the Destino website

Several new projects in the planning stages will unfold as the year progresses. Meanwhile, thanks to our incredible team in La Paz who helps us keep things organized and flowing. And thanks to our supporters at home!

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A Valentine's Message

Cindy and Jamee helped fill the stage with many hearts of **LOVE** for the entire month of February.

On February 8th, Pastor Jerry gave a powerful Valentine's message titled "Love Right." The following passage of Scripture used in the sermon says it all.

"Jesus answered him, 'The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall **LOVE** the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment."

—Mark 12:29-30

VALENTINES DAY

Continuing with our message of love, 8 members of Destino carpooled to Nueva Creacion where we surprised the kids at the orphanage with bags of special candy and plates of homemade cookies. They LOVED it! (And so did we!)



A MAN ON A MISSION

This past February, Don Tersieff from Medford, Oregon, arrived as a man on a mission. He spent a week in La Paz, assessing the needs of Destino Cristiano, and completing a few projects in preparation for his longer term stay in a few months. Thanks to Don, the second phase of the stage is done and now ready for preaching and teaching. He also hung the projector from the ceiling. Both of these projects are preceding the work planned in which he will tear down the walls in the back of the sanctuary in an effort to expand the capacity of the church. Of course, Don made sure he enjoyed the sun, the sand and the water with many trips to the Malecon and the beaches. When he returns for his 'real' mission trip, on will drive into Mexico with his converted van, which will be both his work truck and his home away from home.



Let 'The Gathering' Begin

The Gathering meets at the church the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10 to 11am. It is in English and open to everyone. (A Spanish-speaking class will begin soon.) We studied Philippians during the months of January and February. Currently, the group is discussing "Why We Believe What we Believe." In April, The Gathering will be held the 1st, 8th and 28th. We are a small but mighty group growing in our unity and being strengthened in our faith.

Christmas Party in the Planning Stages

We're starting early this year to plan an amazing Christmas party for the kids at Destino Cristiano and Nueva Creacion. Last year's celebration brought so many smiles and laughter, we want to do it again, and even better! Our goal is to provide the kids with one large gift each (for example, a scooter), as well as great big stockings with items that were purchased just for them!

Our personal shoppers (Destino team members) are getting ready! More details will be provided in July's newsletter.

First Tour at Nueva Creacion Draws Large Crowd

March 14th was Destino's first public tour of Nueva Creacion and it was a great success with 27 people attending. Everyone met at Destino for coffee and to hear Jamee share pre-tour information about the orphanage. We caravanned with 5 vehicles and were greeted openly by Roberto, Alma, and the children. The tour included the palapa area, kitchen, dining room, dormitories, carpentry shop and the trailer where the adults and babies live. Comments from everyone who attended were extremely positive and the generosity of their generosity was overwhelming as they pooled together enough money to pay the orphanage's power bill. (The pens, clocks and other handmade wood items were created by the teenagers and their teacher. This is one of the ways they learn life skills.)

Our next tour of is scheduled for November.





Special Out-of-Town Visitors

We appreciated the company and the help of Sherry Colby (Jamee's sister) from Medford, Oregon, and her long-time friend Judy Conover from Monterey, California.

They were here in early March, enjoying the city, the Sea of Cortez, and the church family at Destino Cristiano.

Painting Crew Makes Project Preparations

Four people who attended the tour on March 14th were at the orphanage on Tuesday, March 24th to prepare the girls and boys dormitories for painting. Thanks to Bill, Caralee, Alita and Paulette. This is an ongoing project, so if you want to help, contact Bill at lapazgreywolf@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS!

- Bernie will be preparing Easter brunch following services on Sunday, April 5th. Menu: BBQ Beef on a bun or taco with all the fixings, salads and carrot cake. (If you would like to bring a salad or dessert, please let Cindy know.)
- Pastors Jerry and Jamee will be in Oregon April 12-25. Roberto from Nueva Creacion will be preaching in Spanish on April 19th, with Abi translating into English. Keep Jamee and Jerry in your prayers as they drive down the Baja starting April 21st.

KID'S CORNER

Thanks to all of you who have donated to our craft ministry! The kids absolutely love it!



Our new sign has arrived!

PRAYER REQUESTS & SUPPORT

Thank you all for your continued prayers for the following:

- Children's Bilingual Bibles
- Bilingual Members
- Musicians and Singers
- Salvations and Life Transformations

HOW TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH

For tax deductible donations, please send donations through Joy Christian Fellowship (541-779-7029).

You can also use PayPal, or contact us at ChurchInLaPaz@gmail.com