

DESTINO CRISTIANO

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

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Driving Home... Again!

by Jamee Pineda

Jerry and I got a do-over this past April – a second chance to drive the 1,700 miles from Medford, Oregon, to La Paz in California Baja Sur. The first time was 2 years ago, when we had packed our Kia Spectra to the brim with personal items and began the great church-planting adventure. Well, it was quite the adventure as I wrote in my blog in April 2013 (www.churchinlapaz.wordpress.com). And not necessarily fun. I was like a deer in the headlights.

Okay, the truth is, I was in a strange place in my mind, and felt like I would end up in a Mexican prison, and I wasn't up for that kind of adventure. Nevertheless, God was with us every step of the way. So, when members of our home church, Joy Christian Fellowship, recently provided financing for an SUV, we flew to Medford, spent 8 days with friends and family and then drove home to La Paz.

What a difference a couple years makes! I was happy to cross the border and excited for the drive home. Again, our vehicle was filled to the brim, but this time we brought items for our church, and clothes for the poor and toys and crafts for the kids. We are doing what God sent us to do, so as we drove south, we felt our spirits rise and we were refreshed!

Instead of looking like a deer in headlights, my eyes were completely open to the beauty of the Baja! Wow! I missed everything that's anything the first time around, from the amazing species of cactus, to the beautiful hillsides and the miles and miles of huge boulders that are a mystery to the world. I saw the cities more clearly, and of course, the people. Yes, I love the people, and this time, I could talk to them in their own language.

We're settled in now and ready for what's next!



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Church Expansion

This June 18th, Destino Cristiano will be renting additional space to make room for our growing children's ministry. We are moving in faith and believing in the provision! Destino is the orange & brown section of the building, and the white part (pictured behind us) is where we are expanding. You can see the sign that says "Se Renta." We'll show you the results of our painting and designing in next quarter's newsletter. (Pictured with us are Luis & Heidi Brito and Karen Toner.)



EASTER BRUNCH

On April 15th, Pastor Jerry preached on "Let It Shine" during our 2015 Easter program. After service, we all enjoyed BBQ beef on buns and tacos prepared by Chef Bernie. The meal also included a variety of salads and desserts.



The 700 Club Visits Destino Cristiano

Awesome news! Destino Cristiano has gone global! The 700 Club of Mexico visited Destino Cristiano on April 19th to film Roberto Osuno, the director from Nueva Creacion orphanage, who was preaching at the church! We had a packed house! Thanks to our home team at Destino who made it all happen. Roberto preached in Spanish while Oscar Montoya (from Destino) translated into English. Monica & Anahis, who took care of the children were also filmed. And thanks to Bernie who greeted people, Cindy who hosted in English, and Abi who hosted in Spanish.



Destino's First Baby Dedication

What a blessing it was to have the first Baby Dedication at Destino Cristiano. Baby Alexander was only 2 weeks old when Pastor Jerry prayed over him during Sunday service on May 3, 2015. Grandpa Fernando Martin (on the left) has been a member of Destino since December 2013.



Children's Day Activities

On May 2nd, members of Destino Cristiano participated in several Children's Day activities, including a fiesta that was held at Nueva Creacion. The party was presented by an English teacher and her students from Instituto Tecnológico de La Paz. The following is the teacher's story:

Teaching the Art of Giving: By Alejandra Rojano

I've taught English as a foreign language for many years, but I had never turned my teaching into a life-changing experience. It started because I was touched by a story that was part of the book my class was reading titled "From Climbing Mountains to Moving Mountains." At the end of the text it said, "What can an ordinary person do with courage and determination?" So while discussing the text in class, we thought about what we could give or do to make a meaningful change in someone else's life.

Students suggested helping animals, the elderly, children, poor communities or other causes. With Children's Day being right around the corner, my students from Instituto Tecnológico de La Paz decided to focus on the children of Nueva Creacion. It was the right idea and the perfect timing.

We had a brainstorming session and decided to have a rally with challenges and rewards, followed by a special lunch with all kinds of food, piñatas and lots of gifts. We invited people by Facebook to join our effort by donating items. We raised money to bring the children food, clothing and toys. It was an incredible day! My students enjoyed the opportunity to serve, to have helping hands and to be a part of the unforgettable experience the children had that day.



PADDLE BOARDING

In early May, Brian & Vanessa Harker, along with Christine Harker, of Harker Boards in La Paz kindly donated a day of fun for the kids from Destino Cristiano and Nueva Creacion. The event included instructions in paddle-boarding, plus 3 hours of time in the water. Everyone had a blast! In addition, the Harker's provided free pizza and soda.



Christmas Party at Nueva Creacion

In the next couple of months, the Destino Cristiano team will start making preparations for the Annual Christmas Party at Nueva Creacion. We'll need your help, so stay tuned.



Rise and Shine

Twenty-three women attended our first Annual Bilingual Christian Women's Conference at Destino Cristiano on May 30th. The "Rise and Shine" event included uplifting messages from Pastor Jamee, praise and worship, a spiritual gifts test and lunch with tacos and all the fixings. Dessert was "Cupcakes by Cindy." The goal of the conference was to counteract negative self-talk and to encourage participants to see themselves as God created them to be.



Painting Project at the Orphanage

A sincere thanks to Bill Wolf who has taken on the task of heading a project to paint the kids dormitories at Nueva Creacion. Bill, along with several Destino Cristiano volunteers and others have completed painting the boys dorms and are starting on the girls. Money, paint, mirrors and showers heads have been donated by different people in the community! As you can see from the picture, it's looking great!



UPCOMING EVENTS!

- Destino Expansion Project Started on June 18th.
- Baptisms in the Sea of Cortez in July.
- Pastors Jerry and Jamee start The Solid Rock

MOVIE AFTERNOONS

Movie Afternoon is happening once a month at Destino Cristiano as an outreach ministry and time for fellowship. This is for members of Destino Cristiano, as well as the public. The movies are chosen based on their values, their life lessons and their focus on the family, and are shown in English with Spanish subtitles. For more information, send a message to Cindy Crane at DestinoCristianoLaPaz@gmail.com



PRAYER REQUESTS & SUPPORT

Thank you all for your continued prayers for the following:

- Children's Bilingual Bibles
- Bilingual Members
- Expansion Project Funding
- 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