

# DESTINO CRISTIANO



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

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## PASTOR'S LETTER

### Destino Cristiano Expands

The past few months have been both busy and challenging as we worked to expand our sanctuary and foyer at Destino Cristiano, and to add new rooms for Children's Church. You wouldn't believe the dust and the mess! First, from all the walls that came down in two different rooms. Then, from cutting through two feet of concrete and bricks to make a door from our pantry into the two new rooms now being used for Sunday school.

But it was sure worth all the hard work and the constant cleaning as the dust settled day after day!

Of course, nothing gets done without help! We were blessed with the time and talents of church member Gerardo Hernandez, who worked tirelessly to transform three different spaces at our church. Our sanctuary will now seat 90-plus people and our foyer is big enough for everyone to enjoy conversation, coffee and cookies during after-service fellowship.

And, we now have a soundproof so space (walls of concrete) for the children so they can be as loud as kids tend to be. Before, the class for the Tiny Tots was right behind the sanctuary, and only separated by a thin wall. Everyone, including the pastor as he preached, could hear the laughs, the screams and sometimes the crying of the little ones. Now, the classroom is big enough for their play time and God time. Right next door, the older kids have enough space for their study of the Bible and the accompanying arts and crafts projects.

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### BEAUTIFUL BAPTISM IN THE SEA OF CORTEZ

11-year-old Angel Perez Diaz didn't wait to be asked about baptism. Instead, this eager young man insisted on it and made sure it happened! On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, a group from Destino Cristiano met at Caimancito Beach in La Paz for the event,



including Marina, Angel's 98-year-old great grandmother. Angel received his first "grown up" Bible and other gifts for his special day.

We also ate hot dogs, chips and cake, thanks to Bernie and Cindy.



### FIRST ANNUAL ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Through the Adopt-A-Family program at Destino Cristiano, one family will be selected per year to receive assistance. For our first project, we have chosen the Hernandez family.



Gerardo Hernandez and his family moved from Ensenada to La Paz, Mexico, in May 2015 to help his aging and injured parents care for his 98-year-old grandmother, Marina. The original plan was for Gerardo's family to move into the small casita built out of wood in the back of his parent's house. Although, these plans were put on hold after Hurricane Odile completely destroyed the casita in 2014, it still became necessary for Gerardo and his family to move to La Paz.

Currently, 10 people live in the small home of Gerardo's parents. This house has 2 small bedrooms with a total of 700 square feet. As a result, Gerardo and his family set up a tent in the backyard and used this as their private quarters until the heat of summer came. Meanwhile, Gerardo and his wife Sofia (pregnant with baby #3) have become the main caretaker for Marina, who is blind and unable to walk and requires 24-hour care.



With the construction of the new casita, the Hernandez family will be able to provide small sleeping/living quarters for his 4-member family, along with his grandmother. While many of us would look at the size of the concrete floor and think it was too small even for a bedroom, Gerardo looks at this space as a sanctuary for he and his family and grandmother.



STORIES OF THE SOLID ROCK ROAD

**Todo Santos Recovery Center – 10 Graduates**

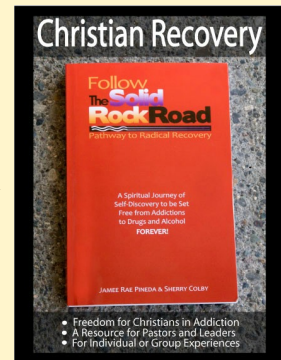
In August, 10 people from Renacimiento Centro de Rehabilitacion in Todo Santos (a city that’s one hour south of La Paz) graduated from The Solid Rock Road Christian recovery program. Pastor Demetrio, the Director, was on hand as two of his leaders and eight youth experienced the 10 Principles. This was a special group since the teenagers (ages 13 to 16) had been sent to the Center by their parents because they were using drugs and drinking alcohol. It was the first youth group the Center has ever had, and God worked it out so that these young Christian men could get The Solid Rock training. We won’t forget the faces of this group, and we were blessed to be part of each persona’s transformation. As always, the Holy Spirit showed up to set them free from addictions and other strongholds. Please pray for these young men and the other youth in La Paz who are experimenting with drugs and alcohol at an early age.



**Abi Cortés Continues Translating**

The Spanish translation for the Solid Rock Road Manual was completed by Abi Cortés. This manual is now in the final editing stages. Meanwhile, Abi is continuing to work on the final translation for the book “Follow The Solid Rock Road: Pathway to Radical Recovery.”

Thanks Abi! You’re the best!



**Movie Afternoons at Destino Cristiano**

Movie Afternoon happens on the last Saturday of each 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.

Bernie continues to make his awesome popcorn!



For more information, contact Cindy at [DestinoCristianoLaPaz@gmail.com](mailto:DestinoCristianoLaPaz@gmail.com)

### BRING SMILES TO THE CHILDREN

## *Destino Cristiano Needs YOUR Help with Our Annual Christmas Project at Nueva Creacion!*



It's only September, but we are starting the Destino Cristiano Annual Christmas Project. Our goal is to raise money so we can purchase gifts for the children at Nueva Creacion orphanage and personally deliver them on Christmas morning.

This year, Bernie will dress as Santa and we will also provide food and snacks to the kids and the adults who live in this facility on the outskirts of La Paz, Mexico. Thanks to your help last year, the team at Destino Cristiano was able to truly bless the children, and we hope to create an even larger impact in 2015.



### DESTINO'S WEBSITE GOES LIVE!

A few weeks ago, the Destino Cristiano website went live. Our goal was to create a comprehensive resource that is easy to use. Now, there is a single location to learn all about the church, our outreach ministries, our programs, our people, our projects and various ways to support what we're doing in La Paz, Mexico. The website also provides lots of photos of our services, events and activities so you can "join" us even if you're far away. We want your feedback so please send comments to [ChurchInLaPaz@gmail.com](mailto:ChurchInLaPaz@gmail.com).



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- OCT 11—CANDY DRIVE
- OCT 31—GIVE OUT CANDY ON THE MALECON
- NOV 26—THANKSGIVING SIT DOWN DINNER
- DEC 20—CANDLELIGHT XMAS SERVICE

### PRAYER REQUESTS & SUPPORT

Thank you all for your continued prayers for the following:

- Children's Bilingual Bibles
- Bilingual Members
- Salvations & Life Transformations

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