



MENNONITE *Air* MISSIONS

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Touched by a . . . Good Samaritan

Nurses Janet Myers and Dorcas Miller never know what types of needs and emergencies they may encounter at the Good Samaritan clinic in El Naranjo. In the article below, Dorcas Miller shares a glimpse of a recent day at the clinic.



The current clinic staff: Janet Myers (nurse), Yalonda Miller (secretary/pharmacist), Melody Showalter (asst. pharmacist), and Dorcas Miller (nurse).

Since this particular day was Wednesday, the clinic was open from 8 AM to 2 PM so that we could leave in good time for the evening church service in Santa Rosita. The day before, we had given out all of our 14 patient numbers by 8:30 and had people waiting all morning to see if we could squeeze a few more in before noon. However, this day we saw around 20 patients, and it felt fairly calm.

We started out with two diabetic patients. The first lives "back in," across the river. He comes regularly but lives so far away that he spends the night with family members close by so that he can be the first patient in line in the morning. He had been out of medication for a few days but was still doing well. Our female diabetic was a month late for her regular visit. She still had a little of one kind of medication we had prescribed but was down to taking half-doses of that. When we first saw her a few months ago, she had looked horrible. Her fasting blood sugar spiked to 499 (normal levels are between 70-110). On her second visit she looked like a new woman and had gained 6 lbs. This time she

had lost 4 pounds but for the most part looked well. I gave her a (hopefully) gentle reminder to return for a checkup before she ran out of either of her pills.

Janet saw two patients with H-pylori (a nasty bacteria that lives in the stomach, doesn't die easily, and requires lots of meds to treat it). Both patients had fairly long histories of gastritis. It is rare that we see this diagnosis once a week, let alone two in one day.

A preacher from a town near the Mexican border was our third patient and came to have his indwelling urinary catheter changed. He wisely came early. The last time he was scheduled to preach on our local radio station after his catheter change, but it took longer than he had planned and he missed his chance. I asked him on his way out if he was planning to preach today. No preaching today, he said. The radio tower had blown down a few weeks before and had never been replaced; therefore, no broadcast.

A friend from a town up-river who used to come to church walked into the pharmacy with her preemie. She asked to have him weighed, but it turned into a mini-consult when I had questions for her and she had questions as well. The baby was 42 days old and weighed less than 4½ pounds. He was born 3 months early, weighing 3 pounds plus a few ounces.

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The Author with a patient.



EDITORIAL

by Ross Good

Power Struggles

Power struggles. We see evidence of them daily. Between politicians. In the workplace. In the home between Dad and son, or husband and wife. Between drug cartels. Recently a 30-year-old man was gunned down in broad daylight in the middle of our town. Why? A little power struggle with his brother over an inheritance.

On a larger scale, we observe ongoing power struggles between nations, in some cases for thousands of years. The country of Israel struggles to hold its own against the many nations opposed to its very existence. Someone wrote recently, 'A self-declared Israel is daily remaining to all people on planet Earth the greatest danger to world peace.'

Power struggles between nations continue to unfold. Recently, a report was released from a think-tank employed by U.S. President Obama. They recommended a shift of "military might" to the Asia-Pacific area with the goal to "shape the environment so that such a conflict is never necessary and perhaps someday inconceivable." They admitted that since late last year the Obama administration has been turning the U.S. foreign policy and national security machine toward Asia after a decade of intense focus on the Middle East. They predict the history of the 21st century will be written in the Pacific realm.

We often view power struggles in a negative light. Are all power struggles wrong? Are they always destructive? Do they all spring from the same root? Do they all hearken back to the power struggle we read about in Isaiah 14:12-14? Read Satan's proposal in short. "I will ascend . . . , I will exalt my throne . . . : **I will be like the most High.**" Ezekiel 28 bores a little deeper into the problem—"Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty." Is selfish pride the root of every power struggle?

Sometimes a power struggle is justified under the guise of "the greater good" of humanity. This was the banner flown when Roman emperor Diocletian (A.D. 284-304) started a vicious persecution campaign against the "anarchists" of the Roman empire—the Christians. The same banner that the "church" used in the 1500s to rid itself of the heretics—the Anabaptists. Hitler used the same mantra in his pursuit of a pure, superior Aryan "race." It is the phrase used by the Muslims in their quest to judge the "infidels." And the same spirit invades our churches and weakens our homes. The spirit that says, "My way is right because God told me," "I am the chosen of God to resolve this problem, and this is how it must be done," "You will be listening to me." The struggle spreads

and strengthens, and at the root is a spirit motivated by selfish pride.

Apostle James shares some heavenly wisdom. "From whence come wars and fightings among you?" He cuts to the heart: "Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?" If we find ourselves fighting against people, we've missed the boat! Is that our job description as Christians?

Some power struggles are strictly prohibited. Isaiah 45:9 forbids "power struggles" against God. Verse 10 outlaws power struggles against our parents. Romans 13 allows no power struggles between us and our government.

Is there ever room for power struggles in the church? Is that the "permissive" will of Jesus? We read in Mark 10 how He corrected His erring disciples when they wanted recognition, or at least a good position. And here we come face-to-face with the tough, yet liberating truth. The greatest threat to world peace is not the self-declared state of Israel. It is the "will to be chiefest." Not even the threat of a belligerent China equals our heart's problem of wanting recognition or power or control. Jesus, who no doubt participated in the quick judgement of Lucifer, humbly spoke the potent words in Mark 10:45: *For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.* If we are useful for God, it means we are dying to self. Then and only then are we able to contribute to the Church of Jesus Christ.

Are you involved in a power struggle? Yes, you are! Apostle Paul testified, *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood . . .* Struggling with people? Not our calling. But the greatest power struggle of all time is begging your attention. *For we wrestle . . . against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.* Are you part of this power struggle? Yes! You're on one side or the other. On board or off. FOR Jesus or AGAINST Jesus. Friend or foe. Disciple or traitor. Employing spiritual weapons or despising them. It is the privilege and duty of every disciple of Jesus to advance His kingdom.

Do I love much because I have been forgiven much? Do I understand and put to good use the sword of the Spirit? Do I "pray always with all prayer?" Do I carry the message of the cross and the empty tomb to everyone who will listen? Am I listening to my Captain's orders in the greatest power struggle of all time? Are you?

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We also saw the usual coughs and colds that day, along with urinary infections and a few skin issues. Then one of our patients brought us a baby shower invitation for Saturday at two o'clock. When I explained that we are normally still working at that hour on Saturdays, the gal said, "Well, it says two on the invitation but it starts at three."

We ate our lunch at the clinic, and saw patients as they trickled in. At one o'clock, a man walked in followed by his wife, whose mouth was hanging open, but not from amazement. While she was making tortillas early that morning she had yawned, and her mouth would not close. We left her husband out front and ushered her through the side door of the clinic. Upon examination, we found that both sides of her jaw had dislocated leaving her with the dropped-jaw look. Thankfully, with proper manipulation, the jaw popped back in place much quicker than I had expected. The poor dear just sat there



Outside the *Buen Samaritano* clinic in El Naranjo.

rubbing her face for a few minutes. The older lady with her asked if it would be OK for her to continue nursing her baby. "Not a problem," I explained. "Just avoid eating chewy foods and yawning too widely."

While I was explaining her pain medications in the waiting area, her husband asked me the same question. They were convinced that she had suffered a

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Pastor of the Month



The Humberto Mux family

José Humberto Mux Perez

was born near Chimaltenango in 1974. His parents, Pablo and Macaria, are members of the Mennonite church in Joya Grande, near Zaragoza, Chimaltenango. He has eight siblings: three brothers and five sisters.

Humberto was twelve when he accepted the Lord in the Mennonite church in Zaragoza where Rogelia Pichiyá was pastor. At the age of

thirteen, he was baptized.

In 1993, Humberto married Rosa Ablara Natareno, and have since been blessed with six children. They became grandparents recently when little Kennedy was born to their oldest daughter Heidi and her husband Candelario de León.

In the year 2000, Brother Humberto and his family moved to the town of Mixcolajá, where Rosa's family is from. During the following years, Humberto has been useful in the Lord's work. He served as an *obrero* (leader in training) from 2003-2006. In 2006, he was commissioned as a pastor to work in Chepelares, Honduras, and served there until 2007. Upon returning to Mixcolajá, he was commissioned pastor and continued in that role until April 2011, when he was ordained pastor of the Mennonite church in Mixcolajá.

Brother Humberto has also supported the work of Mennonite Air Missions by serving on the Institute planning committee and representing the Mennonite schools in the Western region of Guatemala. As pastor,

he preaches every Sunday morning in his local congregation (except when absent) and organizes afternoon services. He enjoys organizing activities and holding services with the youth, visiting the homes of the brethren, and participating in brotherhood activities. He enjoys going deer hunting with the brethren, even if they aren't successful in bringing one home.

Humberto completed *tercero básico* (equivalent to 9th grade) and now teaches two grades in the Mennonite school in Mixcolajá. Besides the teaching occupation, he also farms. This year he planted about six acres of corn and beans. He also does carpentry work, making household furniture such as tables, chairs, beds, and closets. He doesn't forget to help his wife, and he often rises early to sweep or help in the kitchen.

Please pray for Brother Humberto and his family as they serve the Lord in Mixcolajá, that they could be a bright light of faithfulness to the Lord in their community and wherever the Lord calls them to serve Him.

Byron and Karen de la Rosa

Personnel News

Jasmine Lillian Grace was joyfully welcomed by Stephan and Brenda Gingerich and their family of boys. She made her debut on July 2, and has been a healthy and contented baby.



Jasmine Lillian Grace

Tristan Funk headed home at the end of July after serving for two years in the demanding role of Guatemala City V.S. boy.

Thank you, Tristan, for all the effort you invested into the work here!

Maria Metzler returned home to Pennsylvania after serving the El Chal clinic for two years and four months. Thank you, Maria, for all the effort you put into the clinic and the positive changes that you left behind!

Jeremiah and Kim Johnson spent six weeks during June and July in El Chal, helping out in the clinic, around the mission and wherever needed. Thank you both for your vision and energy!

Daniel Eby, who left Guatemala in 2004 with his family after their term of service, returned in June. On July 14, Daniel married **Dora Moreno**, a member of the Novillero church who lived in San Cristobal. Since the wedding, they both attend the San

Cristobal congregation.

Their current plans are to be in Guatemala for at least 1½ years, helping to lighten Victor Ovalle's workload. Daniel has also taken on vehicle maintenance at headquarters in the City.



Daniel and Dora Eby

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stroke, and felt it would be harmful for her to nurse the baby. Like many patients, they had arrived with preconceived notions that were hard to clear up. Some understand, and others choose to continue thinking as before.

When you feel like grouching about health care in the States



The pharmacy.

or Canada, breathe a prayer for us down here in El Naranjo as we face the challenge of providing health care to a small segment of the populace of Guatemala. Pray that God would give us wisdom, patience, and compassion in dealing with our patients. "But the tongue of the wise is health." *Proverbs 12:18b*

—Dorcas Miller

Financial Note:

We are grateful that the Lord's work has continued through the tough financial times of the last couple of years, and that staff needs have been met. However, we are experiencing a serious financial shortfall this summer. Please help us pray for grace to cope with this situation. May God bless the generosity of those who have helped in difficult times.

Please make donations payable to "Mennonite Air Missions" and send to: Mennonite Air Missions, c/o Amos Hurst, 140 Rothsville Station Rd., Lititz, PA 17543.

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