In October 2000, Patricio Martínez, governor of Chihuahua, inaugurated Hospital Misión Tarahumara. We then offered the governor a tour of the hospital. He was extremely surprised by the quality of our facilities and the medical equipment we had. He had visited Samachique that day to inaugurate a new tortilla factory and his staff told him that he had to also inaugurate a new clinic that had just been built. Thinking that he would find a small adobe structure with minimal medical equipment, he was visibly shocked upon finding a state-of-the-art facility.

Ever since then, when visitors arrive at Hospital Misión Tarahumara, they are always surprised by what they find – just like the governor. We have always believed that the indigenous people of the Sierra Tarahumara deserve a high level of medical care, provided by well trained doctors and nurses, with the most modern equipment – and these precious people also deserve to hear about Jesus.

When I look back over the last twenty years, I am reminded of St. Paul’s words, “Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked....in danger from rivers, danger from robbers...danger from false brothers...in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night...” The past twenty years have been filled with many dangers and trials. The Sierra Tarahumara was a gentler place when we opened the hospital. But then drug cartels took over our part of Mexico and we have since had to live in a more dangerous environment.

Our area has been called the “Golden Triangle” of Mexico due to the poppy cultivation. Our mission is to minister to the Tarahumara, but that also means co-existing with the cartel which has become our de facto government.

As I write these words, we find ourselves in an eerie waiting period because of COVID-19. The Sierra Tarahumara may be one of the last places to be affected, but I am certain that the pandemic will arrive here. Our Indian population knows little of viruses or “social distancing” and we fear that they will be particularly hard hit. We are trying to stockpile medical supplies, but many items are unavailable.

This is not the first time that Christians have faced a pandemic, nor will it be the last. Throughout history Christians have cared for those afflicted by plagues even at risk to their own lives. “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want...” Our safety, security and health are in the hands of a loving God. And for twenty years, our God has shown us incredible blessings, protection and provision.

Thanks to all of you who have supported us with your gifts and prayers.

Michael Berkeley, M.D.
CEO Mexico Medical Missions
100,000 Tarahumara Indians inhabit the rugged Sierra Madre mountains of Chihuahua. They are the poorest people group of Mexico with the least access to healthcare and the highest rates of maternal death, infant mortality, tuberculosis and malnutrition. A recent UN study determined that the “Sierra Tarahumara” is as poor as any sub-Saharan nation.

The Tarahumara are unique in that they are one of the few tribes in North America that never surrendered to the European conquerors of the New World. Rather than fight, they retreated into the largest canyon system in the western hemisphere – an area so rugged that the Conquistadors couldn’t follow.

Despite their poverty, they are a proud people with amazing resilience and “grit” displaying a dignity unique to Native Americans. They are the world’s greatest ultra-marathoners and routinely run 100 mile races.

Hospital Misión Tarahumara opened 20 years ago and has an outpatient clinic, dental suite, laboratory, X-ray, emergency room, adult and children’s wards, birthing center, intensive care and modern operating rooms. A Community Health Evangelism (CHE) program works in remote villages and provides programs such as preventative healthcare, agricultural assistance, literacy and clean water.
At the Hospital Misión Tarahumara we offer the following medical services at no cost:

- Emergency Room 24 hours a day
- General medicine consults in the outpatient area
- Specialist consults: orthopedics, general surgery, plastic surgery
- Care and monitoring of patients with tuberculosis
  The Sierra Madre has epidemic levels of tuberculosis. We operate a comprehensive program for the diagnosis and treatment of TB.
- Dental care
- Pharmacy
- Laboratory, X-ray, ultrasound
- Obstetrical care 24-7
- Hospitalization
- Modern Operating Rooms
- Nutrition program
- Emergency transfers to hospitals in Chihuahua via land and air ambulance
2019 INCOME AND EXPENSES

- CASH DONATIONS: $987,423
- IN-KIND DONATIONS: $155,000
- DONATES SUPPLIES: $78,230
- OTHER INCOME: $20,897
- TOTAL INCOME: $1,241,550

Audited financials are posted on the Mexico Medical Missions website
www.Mexicomedical.org

TOTAL EXPENSES: $1,366,578

ADMINISTRATION: 5%
FUNDRAISING: 1%
PROGRAM: 94%
AREAS OF SERVICE

GENERAL HOSPITAL SERVICES

ORTHOPAEDIC, PLASTIC, CATA-RACT and GENERAL SURGERY

CHILD MALNUTRITION

COMMUNITY HEALTH EVANGELISM PROGRAM

BIBLE RECORDING, LITERACY
Hospital Services

Hospital Misión Tarahumara the best equipped and staffed hospital serving the Indigenous population of Northern Mexico.

During 2019, our team of 8 doctors, 2 dentists, 10 nurses, hospital support personnel and community health workers provided high quality medical care to over 8,000 patients.
Specialized Medical Care

100,000 Tarahumara Indians inhabit the vast, rugged Sierra Madre mountains of the State of Chihuahua. They are the poorest people group of Mexico with the least access to healthcare and the highest rates of maternal death, infant mortality, tuberculosis and malnutrition. A recent UN study determined that the “Sierra Tarahumara” is as poor as any sub-Saharan nation.

OPHTHALMOLOGY
In August, Samaritan’s Purse sponsored a cataract surgery outreach at Hospital Misión Tarahumara. This was by far the busiest cataract surgery outreach in the history of the hospital. Besides examining hundreds of patients, we did over 80 cataract surgeries.

RECONSTRUCTIVE PLASTIC SURGERY
Throughout 2019 the plastic surgery service from the University of Chihuahua continued its bimonthly outreaches to Hospital Misión Tarahumara to perform surgery on cleft palates, burns, and hand surgery.

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY
We continued to operate the only orthopaedic service in the region treating adults and children with congenital deformities, trauma and degenerative disease.

GYNECOLOGY OUTREACH
In partnership with Samaritan’s Purse, an OB/Gyn physician spent a month during 2019 delivering gynecologic and obstetrical care to our indigenous women.

PEDIATRICS
Tarahumara children still have high mortality rates due to malnutrition and infection. Our pediatric service attends thousands of children every year. In 2019 we began a malnutrition program assessing and treating severely malnourished children.
Community Health Program

In this mountainous area the majority of communities are difficult to access. To fulfill our mission of bringing health and the Gospel to the marginalized population of the region, we operate a Community Health Evangelism program. Our team includes physicians, dentists, nurses, agricultural specialists, and literacy workers.

In 2019 and early 2020 we also participated in the distribution of over 1,000 solar powered MP3 players to the remotest part of the Sierra Tarahumara. These MP3 players were pre-loaded with portions of the Bible, Christian music and preaching – all in the Tarahumara language.
## PATIENTS ATTENDED 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SERVICE</th>
<th>NO. OF PATIENTS ATTENDED</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient Consults</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Room Visits</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Consults</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deliveries</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgeries</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Admissions</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Health Consults</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MORE ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

**CHILD MALNUTRITION PROGRAM**  Recent nutritional studies have shown that on average, Tarahumara children only consume 300 calories per day. Pediatrician Dr. Jesse Bustinza developed a pediatric malnutrition program to help meet the physical and spiritual needs of families with malnourished children. The treatment begins with in-hospital care where the child receive food and medications to reverse the dangerous effects of chronic malnutrition. A local Tarahumara nutrition assistant shares the Gospel message in the hospital and provides health and hygiene talks to our patients prior to discharge. Our desire is to see children thrive both physically and spiritually, and to take back to their homes not only food for their bodies, but also food for eternal life.

**HOSPITAL UPGRADES** - We were able to purchase new operating room lights, a new anesthesia machine as well as a new 4WD ambulance. We also completed the patio for the new hospital entrance and replaced all oxygen outlets in the hospital.

**NURSING SCHOOL ALLIANCE** – a four year nursing program was recently established in our region which is dedicated to training young men and women from the Sierra Madre to care for their own people. In 2019 we provided clinical training for 12 nursing students. This new relationship with the nursing school promises to be a good source for our future nursing staff.

**TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAM**  Those of us that work among the Tarahumara know that tuberculosis is a serious problem, but we lacked the “hard” data to prove our impression. In 2019 we began a program to test 1,000 Tarahumaras with cough using our new “GenExpert” machine which uses DNA fingerprinting technology to accurately diagnose TB. The study will end in June, 2020 at which time we will publish our results. The initial data shows that there is an epidemic of tuberculosis among the Tarahumara.

**MP3 Distribution Program**  We teamed up with Bible translators, literacy workers, and Tarahumara Christian musicians to produce content that could be uploaded to 1,000 solar powered MP3 players. This content includes Bible readings, sermons and music all in the Tarahumara language. Distribution of these MP3 players began in 2019 and will continue into 2020. A team of young hikers will distribute these players to every household in a remote region of the Sierra Madre Mountains.

**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS** – In 2019 we continued working with Samaritan’s Purse, Christian Health Service Corps, Project Cure, Ravens Inc, Wycliff Bible Translators, the University of Chihuahua, and Bayer Cares. These relationships are important in providing us with personnel, medical supplies, technical expertise and funding.
In 2020, we will celebrate **20 years of service** to the Tarahumara tribe and other indigenous peoples of the Sierra Madre. We have provided quality health services to tens of thousands of these marginalized and vulnerable people. Our work would not have been possible without the support and commitment of many doctors, nurses, volunteers and others who support our work. To all our donors, friends and allies, thank you very much. Two decades of work have gone by and we have witnessed many hardships as well as blessings. God has been faithful and has never failed to sustain us. **The best is yet to be!**