The year 2012 has come and brought with it many challenges. The drug war violence is touching our area of the Sierra, and there are famine and hunger, and never ending medical needs! One thing we know is that God’s grace is never-ending, that His mercies are new every morning, and great is His faithfulness! We are grateful for your prayers of intercession on our behalf. We have seen a wave (or a few waves) of violence pass really close to us in ways and levels not seen before…yet God’s presence and protection have always been with us. The drought last year caused widespread crop failures, and the threat of severe hunger looms ahead. It seems as if poor harvests have always plagued the Tarahumaras, but the present situation is a “once in a lifetime” event. Our beloved Tarahumaras are sustenance farmers who depend on the summer rains as the only source of water to irrigate their crops and to supply the springs and creeks with the water to survive through the dry season. During the last few years the amount of rainfall has gradually declined, and the nutrition and well-being of thousands of an already impoverished people group are at risk. On a more positive note, the marijuana and opium harvest were poor as well, although the loss of income from illicit crops may force some “narcos” into other illegal activities such as extortion, kidnapping and theft. And while this has been a difficult time for the Tarahumaras, we have seen God at work. He has been reaching out to them and meeting their needs in ways we have never seen before. In mid-January there were newscasts worldwide (even the BBC) reporting alleged mass suicides of Tarahumaras who were supposedly despondent over their inability to feed their families. Although those reports were inaccurate (Tarahumaras have long dealt with and survived harsh situations), they served the purpose of letting the world know about their needs and prompting a great response among people in Mexico and the States. Food donations arrived, which helped alleviate the famine, but, as with many disasters, the initial public interest is waning and harvest is still six months away.
Although the situation is very difficult, there are no feelings of despair or hopelessness among those of us who work in the Sierras. Over the years, we have unfailingly seen an Almighty God provide in a variety of ways. We have no doubt that He will continue to do so as we face this situation, both for the immediate needs and for the months to come. Perhaps some of you will decide to join the already existing army of people and volunteers in “Caring for the People of the Sierra Madre” through your prayers and financial giving. May God bless you as you do so!

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION AMONG THE TARAHUMARAS**

In January, several semi trailers of food arrived in Samachique which were donated by several Mexican companies wishing to help the Tarahumaras. Although these shipments were certainly useful, only a small part of the food was designated for the Tarahumara communities located in more remote areas. We at Mexico Medical Missions have targeted communities in hard to reach areas which are less likely to receive food from government or private sources. Food reserves are running out in many areas of the Sierra and the children and elderly will be the worst affected by malnutrition. Please pray that the monsoon rains come in June so that the Tarahumaras can have a good harvest.

---

**“Preach The Gospel At All Times; Use Words If Necessary”**

~A Paraphrased Quote By St. Francis Of Assisi

(But we do think words are necessary!)

**Recent Staff Changes:** In October 2011, our U.S. staff member, Vicky Rodgers (now Stults), got married! While we are rejoicing with her, her marriage meant that she had to move away with her husband Brad to become a farmer’s wife on the plains of eastern Colorado. Although she is no longer at our home office in Glenwood Springs, she is still going to be of assistance to the ministry. Aren’t Vicky & Brad a lovely couple? Congratulations and a lifetime of happiness full of God’s richest blessings to you both!

Edwin Rivera has stepped in to assume her responsibilities. You can contact him via email at: edwin@mexicomedical.org if you have any questions, and wish to start receiving (or to modify how you receive) updates, receipts, etc., from us.
It was certainly an eventful year for Mexico Medical Missions. We continued to operate Hospital Misión Tarahumara 24-7. We saw 10,000 outpatient consults and performed 200 surgeries. Seventy babies were also delivered, and hundreds of people were treated for various ailments in remote communities.

- A special grant helped us to complete construction on the new birthing center! The expansion of the emergency room, ICU and pediatric ward was also begun. The emergency room will double in size and capacity. The new intensive care unit will accommodate the increasing number of seriously ill patients, and also enable isolation of tuberculosis patients. The larger pediatric ward will allow us to handle the overflow of sick and injured children we have seen in recent years.

- Michelle Hopkins was busy not only delivering babies at our birthing center, but also assisting during various surgeries. In addition, she began directing the continuing obstetrical education for our medical staff. The latest health department statistics may indicate that maternal mortality is declining!

- Three wells were drilled during the year, providing clean water to their respective communities. Not only did the scant rainy season of last year decimate the fall harvest, but the lack of any major winter moisture has left the fields dry. Springs are drying up way before the rainy season is expected to begin in June.

- Construction teams began work on an “albergue” (dormitory) out in the remote community of Chikué. It will house forty students who travel by foot many miles from their homes in order to attend the school which we built 4 years ago. There are numerous other villages in which this same scenario quite possibly will be repeated. These albergues are highly promising, since the opportunities for ministry to the children in our care are virtually endless.

- The aviation program continued to support missionaries in the field and transport out sick and injured Indians from their isolated villages. Mark Egolf and David Hardin currently operate a Cessna 185, as well as a Piper SuperCub which is used to reach patients of smaller villages with shorter airstrips. Pray for the pilot’s safety and for wisdom in knowing when not to fly due to high winds and ever-changing weather patterns.

- Jacob Sotelo, the director of our Community Health Evangelism program, continued to train the Tarahumara members of his team to minister to their own people. We were thankful for the arrival of Andrew and Iris Bornman (and their 4 children). Andrew joined the Community Health Evangelism team as an agricultural consultant. The Tarahumaras are subsistence farmers and their harvests are marginal even in good years. Andrew is working to develop alternate crops for the region in order to improve the Tarahumaras’ nutritional status. The CHE program is expanding and staging for growth in other areas. Our CHE team will be devoting much of its efforts in 2012 to transporting food to remote villages overlooked by the government distribution programs. Unfortunately, children and the elderly are usually the hardest hit by food shortages, so we expect to see an increase in nutrition-related diseases in these two groups.
2012 Highlights

• The Literacy and Translation Outreach Center, our ministry base for linguists Andy and Deborah Kramer, is almost completed. It will serve to train readers and teachers, and publish literature in the Tarahumara language for our area. Deb will finish her masters in counseling this month, including an internship in Michigan with Alongside, Inc., which counsels missionaries in crisis from all around the world. This experience is helping Deb as she works to develop a support program with Pioneers Intl. for missionaries in Mexico and Central America. Andy has taken advantage of uninterrupted time in Michigan to complete several Bible lesson translation and video projects, also writing and recording Tarahumara Bible songs to accompany these Bible lessons. In addition, he is developing a Tarahumara language learning program for new missionaries.

• The Surgery Program is busy! Dr. Bruce Daugherty has been a huge blessing to Dr. Mike and all the staff here at the hospital. We can now treat patients that in years prior would have been transported to government hospitals, which allows us to provide a higher level of medical and “personal” care. At our hospital every patient is presented with the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ. In April we conducted our first Eye Outreach of the year, during which two ophthalmologists and their staffs came from Texas to treat scores of eye problems and perform surgeries for cataracts and other eye diseases. A total of 24 surgeries were performed in a 2 day period with patients from 17 different communities - some of them very remote. (Our eye program is famous in the Sierra Madre!) Among them were: 4 blind persons in their 80’s, 8 blind persons in their 70’s, a 5 year old boy with a severe case of strabismus, and even a young man blind from congenital cataracts who collapsed into tears when his eye patch was removed and he could see for the first time in many years. Our staff was profoundly moved upon seeing his reaction. We thank Dr. David Doka and his staff from West Texas Eye Associates in El Paso and Dr. David McCartney from Lubbock for coming, and for their love and support. And we thank those of you who give financially to make all of this possible!

“But Thanks Be To God, Who In Christ Always Leads Us In Triumphal Procession, And Through Us Spreads The Fragrance Of The Knowledge Of Him Everywhere.”
(2 Corinthians 2:14).

We are all grateful for having finished 2011 unscathed from the deteriorating security situation in Mexico. The Sierra Madre has not been exempt from the violence that has terrorized Mexico. Unfortunately, we work in the No Man’s Land between two warring cartels and are witnesses to much of the resulting violence. The majority of deaths occur among those involved in the drug trade, but sometimes the innocent are caught in the crossfire. The government is simply outgunned and seems powerless to provide security for its citizens. We are very thankful to God that the seventy employees, missionaries and family members who serve here in Mexico have so far been unscathed by the violence. Maci and I remain thankful and very humbled that God has continued to support this ministry with everything required to show His love to the Tarahumaras.

- Dr. Mike Berkeley

Dr. Mike & Maci Berkeley

Mexico Medical Missions www.mexicomедical.org
4001 C.R. 114, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 970.945.5432 info@mexicomедical.org

Natétarabá - Thank you!