

Baja Missions, 2023 Camalu' Annual Report

This publication is to give the reader a better understanding of the on-going work that Northeast, and other supporting churches, are continuing to maintain and refine to better meet the needs of the Camalu' church members' families in Baja California Norte, Mexico. Please take time to read through the material, and contact Clint Moore (513-477-7282) with any questions or concerns you might have.

Background

Northeast has been actively involved in the work with the Camalu' Church since 2010. They have partnered in this work with several other U.S. congregations over the years: North Penn, Philadelphia, PA; West Side, Russellville, AR; Southside, Lexington, KY; Westwood, McMinnville, TN; Coopertown, Coopertown, TN. These financial relationships have been a true blessing in providing the necessary financial means for the work to be maintained and the minister's salary to be funded.

Baja Missions, Inc. is the parent organization, under which twenty (20) Mexican congregations have been created in the state of Baja California Norte, Mexico. Camalu' is only one of those congregations, with the others being supported by other U.S. churches. Baja Missions, Inc. is a collective of approximately 40 U.S. churches, working as a collaborative to maintain the organizational structure, which allows the individual Mexican churches to operate and thrive in this part of Mexico. Most families that attend the Baja Missions, Inc churches are first time Christians, so the ministers need a great deal of support in meeting the many challenging needs of their membership's families.

The minister of the Camalu' church is Juan Jose Medina Cruz. His wife Flor, sons Samuel and Denzel, and daughter, Cassandra, all support the work in the church and the Camalu' community. It is truly a family-based ministry. Juan and Flor began the church in Camalu' in 2006, and have been there ever since.

Engagement

There are many ways that you can be engaged, and involved, with supporting our work with the Camalu' church. As stated earlier, many of the families that attend the church are first generation Christians with a very marginal income. The members have the standard spiritual needs as everyone else, but many have compounding struggles with the lack of regular income and access to health care. Additionally, many families cannot afford to keep sending their children to the public K-12 schools, due the high cost of uniforms and school supplies. While the education is free, the uniforms and supplies, which are mandatory for attendance, can cost around \$200.00 for elementary students, and \$400.00 to \$600.00 for middle and high school students per semester. Working in the fields, for the large agriculture corporations, the average daily rate is between \$6.00 to \$10.00 per day, and during the rainy winter months of December – March, little or no work can be found.

Response

Below are the various ways that the work in Camalu' is currently being financially supported, and in which you personally can participate:

- 1.) Education Funding, K-12: On-going, \$2000.00 per semester. Dispersed, based on family economic need. Currently, we have 40 – 50 children in this age group attending the church in Camalu'.
- 2.) Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities (PSEO)/ College tuition: (*To be created in 2024*). These funds will be used to support any of the church members who have graduated high school, and want to pursue service industry or vocational programs, in order to gain the necessary licensure or certification. Additionally, we have two students working on their college degrees. One is studying to be a medical doctor (Surgeon), and another is completing his degree in accounting. For students in either of these two situations, it would be very difficult for them, or their families, to afford these educational costs. We are praying and planning to begin this source of funding in 2024. Our goal is to raise \$10,000.00 to \$20,000.00 to be utilized to fund these educational scholarship opportunities.
- 3.) Annual Northeast Mission Trip: Every year in July, there has been a week-long mission trip organized to take members from the Northeast church, as well as the other supporting U.S. churches, to Camalu', B.C. Mexico to work with, and for, the Mexican brothers and sisters on various projects and benevolence activities, such as home visits, food set preparation and home repairs. Additionally, fellowship opportunities are always a focus of our time spent in Camalu. The average cost for each member to attend the week-long mission trip is \$600.00 for ground transportation, room and board. Air fare to San Diego, CA is additional and runs around \$500.00 - \$600.00. So, each member would be required to raise about \$1,200.00 to participate. The trip is open to all of our church members ages 14 years (high school age) and above. It is a wonderful family-based trip, as well. Also, even if you do not feel the trip is the activity for you, you can help support another church member who wants to participate, by becoming their financial sponsor.

Summary

Hopefully, you have been better informed about the current state of the mission work we are engaged with in Camalu', B.C. Mexico. As stated earlier, please do not hesitate to call Clint Moore (513-477-7282) with any of your remaining questions. It is our hope and prayer for this work to grow in meaning and purpose for the Northeast Church membership, as well as the other supporting U.S. churches. In closing, Please give the mission work outlined above, and that which is to follow, your thorough consideration. God Bless!

Following

Many of you, over the course of the past two years, have heard about and are following the story of, Timoteo, a child born with Hirschprung's disease. This disease affects the lower bowel and causes many health related struggles due to complications and surgeries. Below is an update from his parents, Alma and Samuel Medina, to provide a better understanding of Timoteo's past struggles and future prognosis. Please continue your prayers and support for this wonderful family who has dedicated their lives to God's mission for them in Camalu'.

Timoteo's Story

(Updated, December 2023)

Greetings,

Our family would like to keep you informed about the progress that Timoteo has been able to maintain over the course of the last twelve months. For those of you who are reading about his medical condition for the first time, we will provide the background from his first year of life, as well. Through all the trials and medical hardships, we have grown closer to God, and have experienced love, prayers and support from many people. Although, many times we have felt sadness and despair, we have also seen God's plan for Timoteo move in miraculous ways. Thanks to all of you who will take time to read this current update regarding Timoteo's medical care. As a family, we thank all of you for your continued prayers and support! God bless!

-Alma, Samuel, Gracia and Timoteo



Timoteo's History



From the beginning of Timoteo's illness and his procedures, we have seen the grace of our God, and the love of our brothers in Christ.

Timoteo was born on December 1, 2021, and according to the doctors everything was fine and he was a completely healthy child. Two days after he was born he began to have discomfort and symptoms that indicated that something was not right, and from his first month he was hospitalized, during which time different studies and procedures were done in the hope of obtaining a diagnosis. Months passed and he was discharged from the hospital with a possible diagnosis of Hirschprung's disease, and remained stable for a couple of months. After five (5) months and two days he was admitted for complications where he spent several critical moments.

Since admission, the studies continued to try and reach the true diagnosis. The only way they found to diagnose it was by doing a pneumocolon, which is a procedure where air is introduced to identify the part in which the intestine has problems and see how it is released. That pressure unfortunately gave bad results and they had to proceed to do an exploratory laparotomy where they found ladd bands that obstructed the intestines, which were removed. Once this surgery passed, it was expected that it would improve



and that it would be possible to evacuate normally. This result did not happen, and three more surgeries were required, including the diversion of the ileum (ileostomy). Biopsies were performed, which were positive for Hirschprung's disease. He remained in the hospital for a month and a half, received blood transfusions, total parenteral nutrition through a central catheter and began life with an ileostomy bag.



his skin was bleeding all the time. He went into surgery to rearrange the ileostomy three times and they didn't work and he only got worse.

In March, 2022, he was discharged from the hospital, and by August 2022 his ileostomy began to retract due to complications, and it was impossible to maintain the bag. It was very complicated and painful for him since





His doctor referred us to a specialist in Puebla (city outside of Mexico City) since the disease and its complications were something extremely rare and complex. We traveled to Puebla where they performed biopsies that confirmed the previous ones. Due to the high costs of the hospital and the doctors in Puebla, we decided to change to Mexico City where they referred us to a public hospital where they have very good specialists.

After a long process with the paperwork, they gave him free treatment, gave us guidance for his complications, and surgery was scheduled for March 2023 to reposition the ileostomy to a more maintainable location. After this surgery, he has had relapses, and has been hospitalized for various medical complications, but he is now stable with his treatment.



Timoteo's Current Status



He has had recurring appointments every month with the pediatric surgeon in the city of Ensenada, and every two months with the Specialist in Mexico City. This next year (2024) he will have studies in the city of Tijuana with a nephrologist specialist to review the function of his kidneys due to the medication he is taking and the treatments he has received. He also has a pending appointment with the cardiologist in the city of Tijuana due to the fact that Hirschprung's disease affects not only the intestine but also the kidneys and the heart.

In March 2024, he has a very important appointment in Mexico City when the doctor will tell us the plan for the next surgery (possible reconnection of the bowel) which is expected to be final and successful and he will finally evacuate normally and stop using ileostomy bags the rest of his life.



We first thank God and you, our beloved brothers, for the support provided to our family. Because of that love you have shown, our little son is still with us and is living proof of the great power of God.



Continue to keep us in your prayers!



God bless you all!

Alma, Grecia, Samuel

Financial Support

God has blessed Timoteo with many church members, Mexican and American, who have donated to his medical expenses over the past two years. Currently, while they are waiting for a decision on his next potential surgery, they are still incurring many additional expenses due to travel to Mexico City, Ensenada and Tijuana, as well as expensive medical supplies for maintaining his ileostomy and specialized dietary needs. We have been able through generous donations to provide for these expenses over the course of the past year. As of the writing of this newsletter, we have four (4) more months of funding available. Please consider donating, financially, to help Alma and Samuel continue to afford their medical expenses for travel and medical supplies. Currently, they are spending about \$800.00/month combined for these expenses.

If you are able, please send monetary donations to: ATTN: Alonna Huntoon, Northeast Church of Christ, 12020 Southwick Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45241. Memo: Timoteo

-God Bless