



## CAMPUS MINISTRY IN MEXICO



### CMF INTERNATIONAL PRAYER NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2010

This spring semester has literally been a whirlwind. We have been busy with ministry and busy with life. God is continuing to bless El Pozo and grow us in numbers, which means we are outgrowing our space ... what an amazing problem to have. Thank you for all you do to help make El Pozo a reality in Mexico! Continue to pray for us as we start remodeling, expanding, and dreaming about the future of our campus house.

Much Love,  
*Kami Burns, Clay and Amanda (Carter, Emerson, and soon to be here Sawyer) Cooper, Nathan and Erin (Elsa) McDade, Heath and Karen Neal, Courtney Wilson, and our interns Brent & Abril*

### MEET KAMI

I'm Kami – the newest member of El Pozo's staff! I arrived on January 6 and have spent these last couple of months adjusting to life and work in Mexico. I was an exchange student with El Pozo in the spring semester of 2007 and spent the summer of 2008 working with the team here, but it's a totally different scene to be a full-time staff member. Making Mexico my home has been a challenge ... it's not a whole lot like Whitesburg, GA – the place I called home for 18 years – or Atlanta either. But I've always felt very comfortable in Puebla, and I can definitely say that it's more like my home each day.



Our team is my family here – surrogate brothers and sisters that I just happen to work with; nieces and nephews that I get to hold, play pretend with, or kick a soccer ball around with. I share a house with Courtney, but I also feel quite at home on Nathan and Erin's couch, playing with Heath and Karen's dog, or sitting at Clay and Amanda's table. I don't know what I would do without the friendship of each one of these people.

I have friends who have loved and accepted me right away. I find myself doing things I never did in the States in order to build relationships with students, and I'm having fun while I do it. God is faithful to give me the energy to stay up late, the ability to communicate in Spanish, the connections to make with people who at first seem to be so different from me, and the passion to do all of those things for Him.

The job of a campus minister varies from person to person. I'm so grateful to work on a team where we can each use our gifts and talents to complement one another. This semester I've gotten to do some things that I've done in other ministry roles I've had before, such as leading a Bible study with our interns each week. Some things are totally new, such as teaching in Spanish at our weekly events! It's awesome to meet very real needs and fill in gaps at El Pozo. One of the things that we have in common as teammates is that our work is never, ever done. I'm incredibly grateful to each person who supports our ministries. Thanks for helping me be at home in Puebla.

*Kami*  
Kami Burns



Retreat at the beach.



Auburn Christian Fellowship group who poured themselves into our ministry.

## EL POZO TURNS FIVE

By Nathan McDade, Team Leader

On March 6, 2010, we had a big party – complete with a live band, a DJ, couches in the front yard, a campfire, birthday cake, a piñata, and tacos from one of the best local taco stands – to celebrate FIVE YEARS of ministry at the Casa Verde. Although the ministry of El Pozo began much earlier with the dreaming and praying and scouting



and fundraising and team-building and groundwork-laying and house-renting and such, we officially date this community's birth to March 6, 2005, the night when we had our first El Pozo "En Vivo" Bible study. I remember that day well. It was a Sunday [We later

switched to Tuesdays.], and our original staff gathered with our first exchange student group in the "upper room" – where En Vivo still happens – to pray. Later that night, with a crowd of maybe 20 or 30 people total, I gave what was surely a forgettable talk on one of Jesus' parables. There was music, food, laughter, and ... voila! ... after all of the preliminary and preparatory stuff, for the first time we felt as if we were officially underway as campus ministers in Puebla, Mexico.

Looking back five years later, I can hardly believe all that has taken place. By my count we have had 15 full-time, long-term staff members (12 of whom, amazingly, were present for the party, thanks to Elsa H. still living locally, the Stryker vacation, and an earthquake that kept Frizz here a week longer than expected. We missed you, Dan, Sarah, and Becky!!!); 14 interns; 66 exchange students; and dozens of student leaders. We have raised, and spent on ministry, hundreds of thousands of dollars. We and the students we love have spent countless hours eating, dancing, playing, driving, sightseeing, hiking, laughing, crying, listening to music, doing homework, studying English and Spanish, studying the Bible, praying, and just sitting and talking about life TOGETHER.

By the time you read this, we will have had the great privilege of preparing for baptism and baptizing at least ten students, many as new believers and the rest in obedience as more fully devoted disciples of Jesus. We've hosted hundreds of friends and many mission groups from supporting churches. We've been on ten retreats, plus several others with only staff, only girls, or only guys. We've had dozens of cookouts, tournaments, raffles, auctions, holiday parties, movie nights, sleepovers, scavenger hunts, relay races, and all manner of other events aimed at growing this community and helping college students grow closer to God. And many hundreds, if not thousands, of young people have walked through the doors of the Casa Verde to find a place of love, acceptance, truth, fun, and friendship. Yes, these have been five very full, very busy, and very beautiful years!

I walked around the birthday party in somewhat of a sentimental daze. Our daughter Elsita is still not a year old, so I felt, for the first time, something of what it must feel like for a parent to stand off to the side at his/her child's birthday party and just take it all in. In many ways, El Pozo is my first baby. We witnessed and facilitated her birth, and we have given our all during these formative years to ensure that she started out on a good path and began to grow up healthy and strong, honoring along the way the Creator God who called her into being. The 5th birthday celebration provided an occasion for me to step back and reflect on all that God has done through the highs and lows and adventures in our history here. There are so many fond memories, and there are some painful ones, too, but all in all I don't think I could have ever hoped for a better assignment than to be a part of the creation and growth of El Pozo.

One thing I like about Jesus though is this: That guy was all about the future. By my estimation, God in the flesh was a man who honored and learned from the past, lived in the moment, but focused on the future. With Jesus, it's not about where you've been. Instead it is all about where you're going. And so as we continue to strive to be a God-honoring and Christ-centered community, we enjoy the party, appreciate the journey thus far, and celebrate the victories, but most of all we look to the future. How can El Pozo continue to grow and thrive? How can we reach more students from more universities?



Frizz, former teammate, spoke at our retreat. He now works with Globalscope-Chile.



Brent's baptism.



Beach meditations.

Where do we need to grow? How can we make a bigger impact on this local community and the future of Mexico? Who will be the leaders next year and the year after that? What does God want El Pozo to look like when we're celebrating birthday number ten? How can we be involved in birthing new communities of faith? What is our long-term impact? How can we achieve our main goal of making more and better disciples of Jesus in this place in the days and years to come?

THANK YOU to all of our supporters, friends, and family for making this dream of campus ministry in Puebla come true. I'm so proud of where we are as a ministry today – but I am even more excited about El Pozo's FUTURE!

## MISSIONS IN MEXICO

By Courtney Wilson

At El Pozo, we strongly believe that we, as Christ's disciples today, still have a calling to be His witnesses – at home in our "Jerusalem," to our neighboring areas, and to the ends of the earth. Each semester it is our goal to be His witnesses in all of these areas, not just within the walls of the ministry. Here is what it looks like at El Pozo.

This semester, missions is continuing strong. As a community we have continued to serve at home in our "Jerusalem" by serving every month at the orphanage we adopted for Christmas. In January, we taught them flag football, in February we had a Valentine's Day party with them, and in March we catered their 10-year anniversary party. Each time, about 20 people go just to love on the kids and show them that they are not forgotten. I love the fact that every time we get ready to leave, all the kids protest and don't want us to leave. But they know that we will be back, that they are not just a project; they have become a part of our lives and us a part of theirs.

We have been Christ's witnesses by sending our students to do work in other parts of Mexico. Over spring break we went on our annual mission trip to Juarez, Mexico, to build a house for a family in need. This year we took even more students than in past years and built an even bigger house. God always shows up and showers us with blessings beyond reason. Each year, including this one, we have been

able to raise enough money and get enough students excited about serving to make the trip a success. A huge thanks to all of you who made the trip possible by your extra donations and prayers. We thank God for all of you and for His provision and safety throughout it all.



Now to the ends of the earth. In the summer, Moi, a student leader in the ministry will head to Africa to do missions for 2 months. He is going to be putting his education and passions to work as he serves alongside missionaries on the field to help out the economic situations in certain areas. He is super excited, and has been waiting for over a year for this opportunity. Please keep him in your prayers starting now as he raises money for the trip and throughout the summer as he serves God.

## STEPH'S STORY

Stephanie, one of our students, has been a part of El Pozo for the past 4 years. She has such a beautiful heart for God that we wanted to share with everyone how God has been working in her life. Really there is just no other way to say it than her own words...

Sunday, March 21, 2:45 a.m. I was in bed but not sleeping when I started thinking about the "big day", the day of my rebaptism. I was born and raised in a Christian family. I have always been a big fan of JC ... that's why I was baptized at 13. I knew by then that Jesus is my Savior and my best friend. But a lot of things have happened since then: my dad's death, letting everything have an impact on my self-esteem, being depressed, prioritizing my boyfriend over God, caring more about my identity than God, and having thoughts and actions that didn't portray my identity in Christ. I wanted to be baptized again because I realized that although I had already decided to follow Jesus, there are things on my path that are keeping



Christmas at the orphanage.



Steph's baptism.

me from fully following Him ... things that bother me. I want to leave behind all those things that bother me, and the best way to do it is by renewing my faith and my promise as a follower.

I recently read a devotion about a headless chicken running around like crazy. A little kid who was there asked the farmer, "Is that chicken dead or alive?" The farmer responded, "He's dead, but he doesn't know it yet." That pretty much describes me for about 9 years after I became a Christian. My old self was dead, but I just didn't know it yet. I had the spirit of Jesus Christ living in and through me; I just didn't know it yet.

**"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"**

2 Corinthians 5:17

inadequacy began to fade away. The Bible clearly shows us that we are valued in the sight of the Lord. When we allow God's Word to flood our lives with the truth, we are changed. God loves us with a personal love. He knows our name. We are valued, priceless, and adored by God. When we take God at His Word, and trust Him at His heart, we will experience the deep, life-changing love of our Heavenly Father.

**EL POZO WISH LIST**

We are often asked what THINGS we need around here; in other words, if someone wants to give something other than money, what could they give? In light of these inquiries,

we've put together a wish list of the top ten (in order of approximate cost, U.S. Dollars) things we would currently LOVE to add to the El Pozo ministry arsenal. Please contact a staff member if you're interested in purchasing any of these items. THANKS!

- 10. professional blender (\$80)
- 9. new microwave (\$120)
- 8. new vacuum cleaner (\$200)
- 7. Wii with four controllers (\$300)
- 6. dual input guitar amp (\$300)
- 5. base amp (\$300)
- 4. industrial mixer (\$400)
- 3. patio furniture (\$400)
- 2. new projector (\$1,000)
- 1. industrial dishwasher (\$4,000)
- 0. Bibles! We always have free Bibles available for the students, and they fly off the shelves! You can send money, or just go to <http://www.ibsdirect.com/p-101-nvi-evangelism-bibles-spanish.aspx> or a similar site and purchase some Bibles (best value = case of 24 for \$72), then contact us, and we'll figure out the best way to get them down here.

**SAVE THE DATE**

The 7th Annual Globalscope-Puebla Golf Classic is FRIDAY, JULY 23, at Orchard Hills Golf Club, Newnan, Georgia. There will be a Chick-fil-a lunch and prizes. Proceeds will go toward the Casa Verde building expansion projects: kitchen remodel, student apartments, and creating a larger meeting space. Contact Nathan ([nathanmcdade@yahoo.com](mailto:nathanmcdade@yahoo.com)), Facebook, or telephone (678.697.9541) any time for more information. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!

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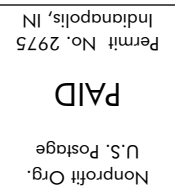
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