

MAC

An Update on Renacimiento/Casa Samuel by Pat MacPherson

In August 2009, I went to Monterrey to seek out opportunities for adult mission trips that did not include swinging a hammer. Equipped with only a soccer ball, I spent two days roaming the streets of Renacimiento engaging young kids to play soccer with me on make-shift dirt fields.

While roaming those days, I witnessed a group of folks receiving food handouts. It was then that I was introduced to Pastor Eva and Casa Samuel from a church 45 minutes away. After spending the afternoon with Casa Samuel, Pastor Eva informed me that that morning her team had been in prayer asking God to send someone to help them in ministering to the people of Renacimiento.

Before leaving to return to Marietta, I asked Eva, "If I came back with a group of adults from Marietta, what would you have us do?" Her simple reply was to play soccer with the kids!! May 2010, I returned hosting our first annual soccer camp for Renacimiento.

We also committed to visiting Renacimiento three to five times a year. It was during these first few years that we started understanding our purpose in enabling Casa Samuel in their call to serve Renacimiento. They were the folks on the front lines, traveling daily to serve and WALK with these wonderful people.



News

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The closest medical facilities were easily 10 miles away, and even if these folks had transportation, they did not have the means to pay for health care, so therefore, they did not have access to the health care. So, they went without.

An unsolicited donation was made, back home in Marietta, to build a medical clinic that ignited the three-year process that is now coming to closure. It seems like yesterday, arriving in September 2014, to see the start of a four room cement block building, and instead, seeing a poured foundation and basement for a 5,000+ square foot building. And a peace that God had a bigger vision.

Fast forward to April 2016, my last trip to Renacimiento. It was a three-day trip that sounds short but was an amazing testimony to what God is doing in this community.

What follows is a description of what occurred in the 48-hour window that was given. At the time, I didn't realize how our prayers were shaping the conversations that were to follow. It was amazing to watch everything unfold as we went from meeting to meeting.

10
YEARS
MAC
Ministries

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1 Prayer to find favor with the Mayor of Garcia to extend the 15-year land permit to provide more security to financial donors. We thought that 50 years was a reasonable start. God knew more and the Mayor granted a 99-year permit.

2 Prayer for a fundraising program that would honor the Lord and result in long-term partnerships. We sought commitments with three organizations for \$10,000 each per year donation, selecting a month from the year to provide. All three enthusiastically agreed, choosing a month that was significant (birthday, anniversary). Three down! Nine to go!

3 Prayer for two more individuals to serve on the Casa Samuel Medical Clinic Patronato (aka Board of Directors). Due to our previously established relationships

with the business community of Monterrey, not only were we enabled to receive suggested names by others, but also received enthusiastic buy-in. Their response was a

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Left: Dr. Sanchez getting prepared.

Right: Eva and Roberto stocking the pharmacy.

Enabling Others by Pat MacPherson

The first half of 2016 has been a little different than my normal pace. It may not appear at first to be out of the ordinary, but as I've reflected, that much of my time has been spent with others who, also, are called to a vocation in ministry.

Toward the end of 2015, I found myself getting connected with two missionaries, one in Central America and one in Africa. Both were needing to spend more time in fundraising for their own ministries and as I spoke with them, I realized that I could assist by making myself available on a weekly basis to "walk" with them through this process.

As anyone who has experienced fundraising, it can be very intimidating and easily distracting, from a stand-point of how to best approach it. Many times, our tendencies are to seek out the most "efficient" process to connect with the most people in the shortest time to get the highest results. Over the past 10 years, I have found that "efficiency" doesn't always lead to "effectiveness". Sometimes, God calls us to take a longer route (or process) to generate the outcomes that we desire (the Bible is full of these types of examples... Abraham, Noah, Moses, etc.).

Over the past several months, I have been intentional to help others in ministry to not "rush the process". Some of my greatest

challenges over the past 10 years have been the temptation to hurdle from point A to point B and skip over the molding and shaping that takes place in the in between "A" and "B."

I'm reminded in John 5, when Jesus asks the man at the healing pool, if he wants to get well, the man responds by explaining his need for someone to help him get in the pool. Not realizing that with Jesus, there is no need for a pool, Jesus just in turns heals the man of being an invalid for 38 years. What I mean is that so many times, I get so focused on an end result, that when I do request Jesus' help, I find that I'm trying to direct Jesus' response to being what I perceive to be efficient even if it isn't effective in changing lives.

It easy to forget that one of the best responses when asked to go one mile with someone, is to go two miles. As my friend, David Chavez, always says to me, "obedience breeds capacity" so go the two miles and rejoice in the transformation.



Right: Mark Crumpler and Pat

Below: Eric Hammer and Pat



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blessing as each shared their desire to focus on helping secure needed funding to sustain the clinic moving forward.

4 Prayer for a physician who had the capacity to help launch the clinic and provide guidance on a weekly basis. Pastor Eva shared the progress of the clinic with her personal physician, Dr. Sanchez. He asked if he could work with Casa Samuel for the first six months as he has personal experience opening clinics and is aware of the regulatory requirements. After a quick introduction and group prayer, he started work the following week!

5 Prayer to find a pharmaceutical provider for the medical clinic. In our last meeting for the trip, we got the opportunity to meet with a physician who operates a pharmaceutical ministry. After a brief meeting, we left with a commitment from this organization to provide basic drugs/ meds on a monthly basis moving forward.

Again, it would be an understatement to say that our prayers were answered. Fulfilled beyond expectations is more like it. But this is the norm in my experience south of the border. From day one, August 2009, God

has used relationships to direct our steps. Responding through obedience has been His call. There are more times than I can recall, where we were being led to just "trust" and not try to understand how it would "all come together." But this "trust" that I'm referencing was not so much me or the Marietta team, but Casa Samuel... Eva and Roberto.

To this I am grateful to have been used and to be involved... and to witness, not just several miracles, but how our God works when we get out of the way and just do what He says... with faith and trust.

Chairman's Update by Scott McLain

I enjoy summer for many reasons, but especially for the break it provides from many planned activities. But the first half of summer break also contains two Holidays – Memorial Day and July 4 – as well as Father's Day. And some conversations with Pat have me reflecting on the connection between MAC Ministries and the first half of summer in a new way.

Memorial Day and July 4 are both wonderful opportunities to remember those that have come before us to create and defend our nation, both politically and in war. I am fond of the phrase "we all stand on the shoulders of those who have come before us." On these two holidays, we honor 'those who have come before us' and acted as "enablers" for the freedoms we enjoy today.

On Father's Day, I enjoy a little special attention from my family. And I remember

my late father that was such a strong influence on my life and the man whom I have become. He was not a perfect father, but reflecting on his influence and dedication helps me to stand on his shoulders as I work to enable the physical, emotional, and spiritual maturation of my children.

For each front-line missionary, such as Pat, there are literally hundreds of enablers, like you and me, who make their work possible through prayers, encouraging words, and financial contributions. Pat is often out front personally sharing his faith and message of dependency on Christ, but he also finds himself in secondary roles, or an "enabler", as he termed it. We all spend parts of our personal ministry on the front-line, but we have many more opportunities as enablers.

Who are you influencing and enabling?
Scott McLain
Chairman of the Board, MAC Ministries



At the beach: Scott, Kayla, Leah, Cameron, and Tricia

Trying to Give a Reason by Pat MacPherson

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

—1 Peter 3: 15

I recently had the opportunity to share about my faith which is not unusual in my day-to-day work, however, this opportunity was special in that it was with a friend whom I don't get to see that often. Although much of my week is sharing with others about my faith and my dependency on Christ, on this particular night, I was sensitive in choosing my words carefully.

My friend had contacted me as he was coming into town for a week of work-related

meetings and suggested that he and I catch up over dinner. To tell you the truth, I was thrilled. This friend is one of the most dynamic people I know and truly is a "hoot" to hang out with. He never lacks funny stories and commands your utmost attention and is not afraid to say "his mind" even if it might come across offensive. As most of you know my personality, this has the potential to be very entertaining.

Something was different about this particular night and, from the moment I picked him up from his hotel, he started bombarding me with questions about my decision to follow Jesus. See, my friend is not a believer in Jesus. Sure, over the 20 years of friendship, we have had discussions about my faith, especially 10 years ago when I left

my "corporate" job to launch MAC Ministries, but most of our visits center around our friendship and the fact that we truly enjoy each other's company. So, the questions about my faith, which started

almost immediately when entering my truck, and lasted through dinner until dropping him back off at the hotel a couple of hours later, were a little surprising but completely appropriate.

I wish I could say that I clearly articulated my beliefs and faith and the reasons thereof, but I didn't. It seemed that every time I started sharing, more confusion entered the conversation. Not only was I confusing my friend more, as he mentioned, it "just" didn't make sense why I would give up so much to follow this man named Jesus!

At the end of the late evening, we were both exhausted, but our friendship was stronger than ever. Although I was seeking different results, I still find it an honor and blessing to share with my friend about the most important relationship in my life. After closing the night in prayer, my friend got out of the truck and said "I've never had the opportunity to engage with a Christian before about why I don't understand their beliefs. Thank you and let's do it again the next time we get together!"

So, yes, be prepared to share the reasons for your faith and at the same time enjoy the conversation. And remember, God is the master revealer and His timing and methods are not our own.

"Where two or more gather in my name..."



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We invite you to participate in supporting this ministry through your financial contributions:

- online through Paypal at www.macministries.net
- Send a check payable to MAC Ministries at the address above

A Note From Bridget's Heart by Bridget MacPherson

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

—Revelation 7:11-12

When you think of the Book of Revelation, what comes to your mind? Are you frightened by what is to come? Is it too fantastic to be believed? Do you think it is a far-fetched prophecy open to endless interpretation? It's not one of the books of the Bible that we often learn in Sunday School or read to our children at night. Admittedly, it's something that I avoided for most of my life—until this past year when I was blessed to study the Book of Revelation through an in-depth Bible study ministry called Bible Study Fellowship. My eyes and heart were opened to God's love in a

whole new way. Through this nine-month long study, God revealed truth to me in ways I never experienced before.

First of all, I realized how much I enjoyed being in God's Word when given the right guidance. In the past, I often felt confused and overwhelmed when approaching the Bible. Sure, there are stories that I know and understand—scripture that I grab hold of and depend on in times of trouble or joy. But approaching this book in a systematic way with other women who were also hungry for God's truth gave me a new confidence in God's love of me and our world.

Secondly, I was impressed with the continuity of the Bible from beginning to end. To think that a man (the apostle John), sat in exile on an island and wrote so eloquently and thoroughly about the story of God's creation, the fall of man, the law, Jesus' birth, death and resurrection, and ultimately, the redemption of God's creation. I firmly believe that John was "in the Spirit" and recorded all he saw and heard.

Finally, as I was reading and studying verse by verse, I became aware of how much of the Book of Revelation I already knew. So many of

the lyrics in our songs of praise come word for word out of Revelation. Many of the prayers I hear and recite in church on Sunday are prayers that are being prayed by the angels and the multitudes in heaven. God has written His Word on my heart (and yours). This is how we know His voice. This is how we are identified as people of God.

If you haven't had the opportunity to experience God's Word through an in-depth bible study, I encourage you to do so. I know all the reasons that may be holding you back because I've used them all. Pray that God will open a way for you to dive into His Word—and then trust that He will make it happen! This is our love story, written by our Creator.



Family time in Chicago