

February 2010

Trip to Puerto Lobos & beyond!

Trip to Taiwan planned



***Puerto Lobos**

A trip to Puerto Lobos

**Travel Journal of
Manos de Dios**

Missions to Mexico

Dennis & Lucy Smith

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We always enjoy spending time with Pastor Ruben and Pastora Erika in Desemboque (along with their growing kids, YamiLexi and Caleb)! We had long talked about taking a 'road trip' to Puerto Lobos on the new Costal Highway. We decided to do this in February to celebrate both Erika and Lucy's birthday. The planned date arrived and we packed a picnic lunch for the six of us, including a birthday cake and drove to Desemboque to arrive by 10am.

We all loaded into our van and set off for the day's adventure. It was a beautiful drive south on the new Costal Highway to the turn off to Puerto Lobos (about 30 miles). You could see the village, with its lighthouse, sitting at the edge of the ocean where the rocks meet the deep blue water of the Gulf of California. We took the bumpy dirt road from the highway (about 3 miles) to the village. We found out that this community of less than 200 residents has no electric power or running water and the main source of income is fishing. This area is known for its wide variety of and plentiful supply of FISH! It is a remote area and difficult to reside in. The nearest community with a store and gas station is about 50 miles away.

Pastor Ruben wanted to show us a church building that was built about 15 years ago by some Americans. It stands vacant and in need of repair and completing. (It is a Amistad Cristiano church, the same denomination as Pastors Ruben and Erika's church in Desemboque.) A pastor lives in town and gives a message there periodically, but he is occupied with a family fishing business and seems to be interested in retiring. Pastor Ruben

shared his dream of beginning to travel to Puerto Lobos every other Sunday to provide worship and a message to the people in the community.

We located the church building and were amazed at how big it was! We immediately saw the potential of possibly having a regular worship service there (and possibly finishing the construction of the building?). We prayed inside and out of the building, asking God to direct Pastors Ruben and Erika in their outreach to the people in Puerto Lobo's. We invited God's Spirit to bless the building and sang praises to God within the church's incomplete walls! We all felt an excitement about God's plan for this place!



YamiLexi, Pastora Erika, Lucy and Pastor Ruben view the church building in Puerto Lobos



We drove through the small village and noted some homes being supplied with solar energy (including a few American's homes). We saw some fishermen's homes with shells and fish being dried outside. Women and children were washing clothes by hand and cooking over open fires. We found a nice spot on the beach and had a picnic lunch with Ruben, Erica and their two children. We had the beach all to ourselves and enjoyed eating, running and singing (*'Abre mis ojos'* <Open the eyes of my heart>) on the beach!

We then went to talk with Pastor Miguel, who lives in the community and sometimes gives a message in the church building. The conversation was positive and Pastor Ruben and Pastor Miguel agree to talk at a later time and figure out a way to join together to bring the message of Jesus to the local community. He also stated that the Catholic priest rarely comes into the community to give a mass.

Lucy and I talked with Pastor Ruben and stated we would assist in what ever way we could be of help. We offered them the use of our projector and screen (we need a sound system) to show the Jesus Film and other Christian movies in the community (we would also need to bring our generator). It was decided that we would all pray about what we discussed and see where the Lord would lead us. ***Please join us in praying for God's plan for Puerto Lobos!***

It was a beautiful day! We all enjoyed the simplicity of sharing time together. Thank you, Lord for the gift of friendships.

His servant, Dennis Dennis@ManosdeDios.org

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”

I Thessalonians 5: 16-18

IS THERE A PUERTO LIBERTAD?

After we left Puerto Lobos we decided to go further south to the community of Puerto Libertad. We had heard that the new Coastal Highway was finished all the way to that community. Once back on the new highway, we drove about 15 miles and the road came to a dead end. We turned around and started back. We had noticed a hand painted wooden sign with “Puerto Libertad” and an arrow pointing north down a one lane dirt road. We decided to try it out. A few miles down the road was a small construction area with one man in attendance. He stated that Puerto Libertad was ‘just down the road about a half hour’. The decision was made to go for it. It was a beautiful day and just another half hour ride to a new ocean front community.



Pastor Ruben and family on deserted road toward Puerto Libertad

The adventure was on. We started down a one lane road that continually got smaller and rougher as we went. I was a little distracted because of the beautiful landscape and the extremely large cacti that were growing profusely in the area! An hour later the only thing we could see ahead of us was more mountains and even smaller dirt road. We were probably about 40 miles off the paved highway and about 70 miles from the village on the ocean! We decided to stop, have our birthday cake and take some photos in front of the unique cactus. I estimated that there was about three hours of sun light left. We were on a deserted road and had no idea who traveled this road at night. And to make things worse, no one knew where we were and the van had been acting up the past few days (unknown to Lucy). I was a little concerned and decided I would do things quite different



Lucy on deserted road...birthday adventure!

if we ever tried something like this again. I did a 6 point turn in the van to get headed in the opposite direction and we set off again.

As you can tell, we made it back to Desemboque safely, dropped Ruben and his family at their house and settled in at the only hotel (and we were the only guests) in town. We enjoyed waking up to the most beautiful beach view in the world (according to Lucy) and watch the fishermen go out for their day’s work. We ‘worship walked’ on the beach and then drove to El Diamante for a day with Pastors Alfonso and Angelita.

We did not make it to Puerto Libertad this trip, but Pastor Ruben assures me there is a community there and he will show it to us someday. We’ll wait until the Coastal Highway is completed! Thank you Lord for being with us on our journey!

Dennis

News: Lucy is going to Taiwan for a short team missions trip April 27-May 8. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about a totally different culture and to be used on a ‘prayer evangelism’ missions team. We covet your prayers for this trip! Thank you! Send us an email if you would like more details!