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Dear CERT Family,

2015 is shaping up to be “THE YEAR” we have sent more teams and team members than ever before. For 43 years God has used CERT to change lives forever. All ... made possible only by your prayers and financial support.

THANK YOU ... If not for your prayers and financial support CERT would not BE, and “LIFE conquering death” stories like the one below would never happen. **Because of Jesus and you, this young lady saw THE LIGHT in the darkest of tragedies. Please listen to Arli’s story ...**



July 25, 2015

“When I first learned of the medical mission trip to Puerto Escondido, Mexico in November 2014, I jumped at the chance. I’m a Pre-Med student at Pittsburg State University, so I knew it would be an excellent experience. I’ve also always wanted to travel and see the world, but had not yet had an opportunity to take a trip out of the States. I applied through the PSU biology department, and was excited to find out I got accepted to go on the trip.

This excitement I felt, as well as nervous anticipation, carried me through the next few months. I applied for my passport, got my vaccinations, and went over and over the paperwork I would need and the supplies to pack. I made it up until the beginning of May feeling this way. Then, I got news that would change not just my plans for the trip, but my entire life as well.

On May 4th, 17 days before the trip, **my dad suddenly passed away. He had committed suicide. I was absolutely devastated, and my family with me.** We knew he struggled with depression, but we didn’t know it was to that extent. I never could have imagined that my dad would be one that would fall victim to this kind of senseless death. He and my mom had raised my brothers and me in a born-again Christian home. This, combined with his job as a paramedic, solidified my belief and his, that suicide was never the answer. He witnessed firsthand the fallout that occurs when someone takes their own life, and the broken, jagged pieces that get left behind.

Until this point, I had lived my life for my Savior. I did all I could to grow my faith, and to bring myself closer to Jesus. I had never struggled with believing in a loving, benevolent God, even despite the tragedies that face our world daily. But now, I found myself questioning and doubting the God I thought was so good.

If God was so good, and if he loved us so much, WHY did my dad feel that his only hope was to leave this world and take his chances with eternity? The man whose faith and knowledge of God I had looked up to all my life had evidently not found his faith, or his Savior, to be strong enough. **I found my own faith shaking as I was gripped with grief.**

In the face of all this turmoil, I didn’t feel it would be right, or even possible, for me to go on the trip to Mexico. There were several people, however, who talked me through it and convinced me that I should go, if I really still wanted to. And I did, of course. So on May 21st, **I got on the plane in Tulsa and began my trip.**

THE REST IS ON THE BACK ... OVER PLEASE

SAVING LIVES & HEALING  **SINCE 1974**



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That first day, I wondered what in the world I had done, and gotten myself into. Yet as the days wore on, I became increasingly glad I had decided to go. I was able to witness how God worked, and feel his love again. I saw this in the way that the members of my group quickly made friends with each other, and opened our hearts to each other. I saw in the way that things just seemed to work out, when it sometimes didn't seem possible.

I saw God in the physical beauty of Puerto Escondido, and in the love a group of strangers could show to the natives who merely were searching for hope. I saw Him in the faces of the children, who didn't care that there was a language barrier; they let their smiles speak for them.

By the time the trip was nearing an end, I genuinely did not want to leave. I was afraid of returning to the reality that was awaiting me back home. Yet God ministered to my heavy heart, and He gave me joy and peace that could not be explained outside of Him. This joy carried me through the final days of travel.

God used this trip to show me that He really is good, so good. He showed me that He loves me so much, and it was not His will that my father would leave me and my family when we needed him. I have personally witnessed Romans 8 in action, especially verse 28, that "God works for the good of those who love Him".

Since returning, I have continued to see these truths. I am so thankful that I was able to become reacquainted with my Savior on the shores of the Pacific Ocean in Southern Mexico. However, I am more thankful that God is everywhere, not just in Puerto Escondido. He is in Kansas, in a home grieving the loss of an irreplaceable family member. He has always been there, and always will, because He is the same yesterday, today, and forever."



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We never KNOW how God is going to show up. BUT WE KNOW HE ALWAYS WILL! Because you pray and give, CERT was the vehicle God used to bring Arli to a deeper KNOWING OF HIS AMAZING LOVE!

FOLLOWING ARE ONLY THREE, OF MANY FINANCIAL NEEDS FOR THE POOR AND NEEDY IN MEXICO:

- ♦ You paid \$300 dollars for 5 year old Marla to see an ophthalmologist. Her eyes wander uncontrollably and she can not focus. We are praying and awaiting the results, hoping she can be surgically or miraculously repaired.
- ♦ You gave \$1000 to Pastor Rodrigo to purchase Bibles. Due to our clinics, three remote villages have already donated land for "church buildings" to be built. We want to help them!
- ♦ Many poor indigenous were transported to our already remote clinics, more than a three hour drive. They have asked us to help build and help fund a local clinic to help care for these remote natives.

We always thank God for you! Together with Jesus we change lives forever. Please pray, and wherever God leads ... send your best gift today.

4Him,

Bruce

Bruce Rainwater
CERT Staff

Marla



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