

The Cervantes Walter Family

Susie, Abraham, and Sophia Joy

Serving God and the Poor in the areas of health, education, and development in Tijuana, Mexico and beyond

May – August 2018



Sophia is 14 months old now. We celebrated her first birthday in Mexico at the end of June with family and friends. She is walking now and talking a lot: her favorite word is "hola!"

Highlights from our trip to Europe (Prague, Budapest, Vienna, and Paris)

- This was Sophia's first international trip: over 30 hours of travel each was not easy for an 11-month-old, but she is a great little missionary baby and held up very well! She also experienced trains, trolleys, and metros for the first time, and was ogled by people in Czech, Hungarian, German, and French!
- In Prague, I presented my Master's thesis on the role of short-term missions in long-term development work (send me an email if you would like to read it!) Unbeknownst to me, my thesis advisor invited staff from YWAM Czech Republic to listen to my thesis defense and we shared in a great discussion afterwards. It was wonderful to connect with our YWAM family there and encourage them in their ministry.
- During my graduation week, I was able to connect with fellow students from my online cohort about their missions work in Haiti, Indonesia and Uganda. We are now praying about developing a Bible-based curriculum regarding cultural awareness for short-term missions teams in a variety of contexts.
- I felt God's pleasure so much during my graduation ceremony, knowing that I had been obedient to take a step of faith to study and complete this degree. I feel like now I have both the knowledge and experience to fulfill the YWAM value of "Do First, then Teach." Although it was difficult, God lavished his abundant grace on me as I struggled to balance classes, family, and ministry over the last 21 months. **Please pray for our family as we try to find a "new normal" without school work.*
- Another highlight was meeting a group of Syrian refugees in Austria. We greeted the 3 young men on the street and they were taken aback, later describing to us how no one ever makes an effort to talk to them. They shared how difficult it had been to adjust to life in Vienna (despite learning German) and that they had not been able to make any friends during their 4 years there because of cultural discrimination. Abraham shared the Gospel and his testimony, and we prayed that they would be able to find a friend in Jesus.



Visiting the Eiffel tower in Paris on Sophia's 1st birthday. She also started walking for the 1st time in front of the Notre Dame Cathedral!

Looking Ahead

August 28-Sept. 8– I will be traveling to Thailand for the YWAM Together conference. This is our largest global YWAM gathering, with over 2000 YWAM staff expected to come together to hear from God and each other about how the Lord is moving around the world. I am looking forward to meeting with other YWAM Community Development school leaders as well as be refreshed in the Word and receive revelation for the future. **Please pray for those things as well as my "mommy's heart" as it will be the first time that I leave Sophia for so long. She will be staying home in Mexico with daddy and her "abuela" (grandma).*

Continue reading to find out about what God is doing in our ministry in Mexico!

New Mailing Address

The YWAM San Diego office has moved, but our P.O. Box has stayed the same-
YWAM San Diego/Baja, 1101 Bay Blvd Suite C, Chula Vista, CA 91911.

Letters/checks continue to go to: **YWAM San Diego/Baja, P.O. Box 5417, Chula Vista, CA 91912.**

YWAM Tijuana Ministry

- 17 of our Community Development School students graduated in June and we thank God for His faithfulness as during the last 5 years running the school at our base.
- Although we are not building at this time, I serve with our Homes of Hope team and one of my projects is getting our family selection process online through a new application that is being developed. I also attend family orientations and interviews and it is a great joy to share with possible families that **the true Hope of our ministry is not the house, but Jesus Christ, the one who is preparing an eternal home for everyone that puts their faith in Him.** Finally, I am working to develop a follow-up study for our families that clearly communicates the Gospel, as well as helps them understand God's intentions for them and for their communities.
- The Library Bus is on the move! We are visiting the "Faro de Luz" (Lighthouse) community center in a rural area of the city. The center was built by a YWAM couple who desire to see the community of "El Ranchito" transformed by the love of Jesus Christ. The families there are extremely poor and many face problems with addiction and abandonment. There was no Christian church there, but now services are held on Sundays at the community center. During a visit to pray for a sick child, a mother shared that she felt so forgotten and she didn't know that 'people like us' still existed. **God has given us the opportunity to serve in a place where the families desperately need to see a physical expression of God's loving kindness in their difficult situation.** While the adults receive English and Bible lessons, we give math, reading and Bible classes with one-on-one attention to the children and also serve meals to the families that attend. The children only have an informal school run by the parents in the community so we are giving kindergarten classes on Saturday as well. This week, in addition to learning numbers and letters, **we read the story of David and Goliath and the kids were amazed since it was the first time they had ever heard it!** We are also thankful we were able to provide school supplies for 50 students in this community who otherwise wouldn't have had them. **Pray with us as we try to bring our program to the local school, as well as establish a library lending program to promote not only literacy but also responsibility.*



Hearing the story of David and Goliath and learning about God's strength and faithfulness in the previously unchurched community of El Ranchito



← In July, Abraham traveled to Queretaro Mexico, where he built 5 prosthetics for members of the Mexican Paralympics soccer team.

Sophia has become an excellent addition to our ministry team! She loves reading on the bus and interacting with the other kids during our classes. Bringing her along also helps me connect with the other moms at the community center. →



Please consider joining our ministry team! To donate and be a part of what God is doing in Mexico and the nations, you can mail a check made out to "YWAM" to: **YWAM San Diego/Baja, P.O. Box 5417, Chula Vista, CA 91912.** Please include a note specifying your donation is for Susie Walter-Cervantes. You can also donate online at: <https://ywamsdb.webconnex.com/StaffSupport>. **THANK YOU** for supporting our family! ¡Muchas Gracias!