



CASA HOGAR Benito Juárez, A. C.

Spring 2006

Notes from Fran & Carol Marin



Marin Family
Fran & Carol
Xu, Pedro y Nayeli

Once again too much time has passed since we have communicated with you. In the midst of some heavy duty stuff this past week (emergency major surgery, lack of finances both personally and for Casa Hogar; conflicts, accusations, and misunderstandings, not to mention major challenges with teenagers), Fran prayed for me the verse from Jeremiah 29:11. "For I KNOW the plans that I have for YOU" declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope." When everything surrounding us seems bleak, and believe me, it did, it is so awesome to know and to depend on HIM. He knows it all, the start from the finish and everything in between. And He is very willing to do what needs to be done, whatever it is, in order to comply with His promise.

On a personal note, please keep me in your prayers for complete healing. On April 4th, I had emergency surgery to remove an ovarian cyst that had burst. Praise God it was benign. They also removed my appendix. I am having to force myself to rest, something I do not do well, for 4-6 weeks.



Congratulations Moises & Xu

On the family front, things keep changing. Nayeli and Arturo are expecting their first child at the end of October, and Fran and I are excited about being grandparents! Xu and Moises just got engaged and are hoping for an August wedding. Peter turned eight in February and is at that cute chubby stage that most little boys his age go through; in fact, it seems to me that he is growing daily! Peter is such a joy to be around because he has an unabashed exuberance for life that keeps him excited about learning and experiencing new things.

A Testimony

From Eleuterio a staff worker at Casa Hogar

I knew of Jesus through a brother of mine who lived at Casa Hogar & was being treated for cancer. When I arrived at Casa Hogar I started to go to church. A seed was planted in me. God has always supported me. My wish is that all my family would know Him as I know Him, that Jesus would not just be a religion to them.

I arrived at Casa Hogar Benito Juarez when I was six years old. It was all so different then, we were just a few children and the only person who took care of us was Carol. The Casa Hogar was growing.

I attended grade school and later went to junior high school which I completed. It was after junior high and receiving training to be a carpenter that I decided to help the Casa Hogar by working there. Two years pasted then my mother informed me my father was sick and that I needed to return to my home. I was helping them when my father died.



Eleuterio Gaspar Agudo

In November of 2004, I decided to return to work at Casa Hogar Benito Juarez. I have now completed two years here and I am very happy.

My youngest brother Victor lives at Casa Hogar with me. He is in junior high school. I am 23 years old.

I am grateful to Carol and Fran for the physical and spiritual support they have given me.



Madai & Flor

Spotlight Child

Madai Lopez Garcia, age 22, is a junior in college where she is studying accounting. Casa Hogar has been Madai's home for eleven years. Her father is a pastor up in a mountain village about one hour northwest of Oaxaca. She is the second oldest of 11 children.

Madai is an exceptionally hard worker. Besides her studies she is also a dorm "mom" for seven of the youngest girls here at Casa Hogar. For the past 4½ years she has been a surrogate mom to five year old Flor, who has a harelip and cleft palate. Madai lives a disciplined and well moderated life plus is always looking out for the best interest of the kids.

If all goes as planned Madai will graduate in 2½ years with a bachelors degree in accounting. Please keep her in your prayers as the public university system is riddled with many serious problems and conflicts.



David Blasyck led a group from Cloquet Lutheran Church, Cloquet MN. In ten days they completely reorganized the third floor. The third floor is storage area for the extras we use at Casa Hogar as needs arise ~ things like toothpaste and shoes, blankets, and socks. They also built a closet with shelves near the office to hold all the school supplies. It is very neat and is easy access for Maribel to hand out needed pens, paper and other school items.



Fourteen ladies from The River Church, Faribault MN blessed us with their time spent at Casa Hogar. A girl's dorm was painted and new curtains were made! They came prepared to paint...just look at those ladies in white. To prepare for this trip the ladies had a large garage sale and a silent auction. Plus the members of The River donated many items for the ladies to bring down to Casa Hogar.



In March Dr. Paul Johnson, his wife Lois and dental assistant Ann from Marshall MN arrived for a very packed week that started with teeth cleanings and exams. Casa Hogar rented a local dentist office which was used to do more advanced dental work. Flexibility and improvising were common as cavities were filled. All but six children and workers were seen and treated. They also came with suitcases loaded with needed items for the kids. Everyone got a new toothbrush, toothpaste and floss with instruction on how to properly use them.



A group of youth from Altotonga, Veracruz, Mexico arrived on the April 9 to begin work on remodeling the bathrooms in the dorms and refinishing the playground equipment with a coat of varnish. They also entertained the kids with skits and did a VBS in the afternoon sharing testimonies and Bible truths. It is a blessing to have this group return and serve with us. They are the only mission team of Mexicans who come and do an outreach at Casa Hogar.

We rejoice in what God is doing!

For the 23 Casa Hogar youth who attended the church youth retreat in April. They reported that this was the best retreat yet.

Six children will graduate from grade school and one adult will graduate from college.

We have been blessed with a regular source of free vegetables for our kitchen.



Palabra Viva celebrated 19 years of preaching the Word of the Lord to us. Thank You Pastor Serjio and Luz for all of your giving to the church family.

The Green Farms Congregational Church and a group of teachers from Connecticut came to begin the construction of the computer lab that Simply Smiles is building for Casa Hogar. Also the group prepared the land for the "pave the soccer field project".

Check it out at simplysmiles.org

Praise & Prayer Reports Rejoice!

Our Deepest Sympathy

We wish to extend our sympathy and prayers to Andrew Gilbertson and his parents Gary and Stella Gilbertson of Northfield MN. On April 19th, Andrew's wife Brenda died from cancer at the age of 33. Andrew and Brenda had recently celebrated their fourth anniversary. Brenda was a school teacher in Northfield, where Andrew has taught for the past six years.

Gary is on the Board of Casa Hogar and has blessed us by his visits and teaching. He also was my pastor for many years. Stella is a dear friend and counselor. May God sustain them with His peace and comfort. Please pray for Andrew, his family and Brenda's family.

With Love,
Carol and Fran



A special rock placed in Brenda's garden by friends as she was battling with cancer. Our hope is in the Lord!

Prayer requests.....

- ◆ The final details of Peter's adoption will be granted.
- ◆ That God would bring us faithful workers to fill the many needs that exist at CH.
- ◆ For a handicapped equipped van to transport our special needs kids to school and events.
- ◆ For the young people to keep themselves pure before God.
- ◆ Continued wisdom in administrating Casa Hogar.
- ◆ Unity, harmony and prosperity as the summer groups begin to arrive.
- ◆ Needed rest and relaxation for Carol to fully recover from major surgery.
- ◆ The \$3,000.00 expenses for the doctor, hospital and medication would be covered.



CASA HOGAR

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"And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you he shall not lose his reward." Mt. 10:42

Support Address
Mail checks to:
New Covenant Church Missions
2140 S. Hwy 3
Northfield, MN, 55057

Casa Hogar "Benito Juárez", A. C., is a non-profit Children's Home situated in Oaxaca, Oaxaca, México.

Founded in November of 1974 by quadriplegic Al Baker, Casa Hogar has withstood the test of time and continues to diligently care for special needs children in the state of Oaxaca. In the past 30 years, over 200 indigenous children have called Casa Hogar "Benito Juárez", their home.

Casa Hogar "Benito Juárez", A. C., is a Christian Ministry dedicated to proclaiming the truth of Jesus Christ and to showing forth God's love to all in need.

For more information, please contact Pastor Bernie Wing at Grace Life Church, 305 Camden, Box 406, Marshall, MN, 56258.

Wants and Needs of Casa Hogar

Visiting work groups and individuals prior to their arrival at Casa Hogar, often ask what are the needs and what can they bring. Here is a helpful list of items that Casa Hogar currently needs.

- Scotch Brite scrubbers
- Raisins & walnuts
- Chocolate chips, coco & brown sugar
- Taco Seasoning
- Chicken & beef gravy mixes
- Canned frosting mixes
- Cherry & blueberry pie mixes
- Large plastic bowls for cooking & plastic covers
- Zip lock bags (all sizes)
- Kitchen towels, dish rags & wash clothes
- Spoons, knives & forks
- Mixing spoons (not plastic) & other kitchen utensils
- Plastic dust pans
- Cereal bowls
- Can opener - good quality
- Cologne & perfume for the older teens
- Backpacks
- Pens
- Batteries size AA
- Children's & regular strength Tylenol
- KJV Spanish Bibles - paperback

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