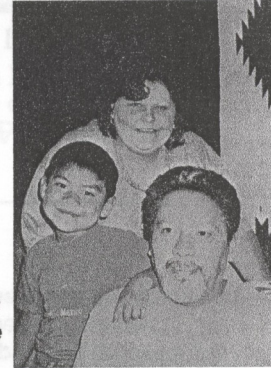


Casa Hogar Benito Juarez - July 2003

"More than another program, it is a home"

Notes from Francisco & Carol

As of the writing of the newsletter the bus donated by Simply Smiles (SimplySmiles.com) is in Dallas, TX. Francisco has been trying to secure the needed permits for Brian Nurmberger to bring the bus and all the donated supplies across the border. The laws for attaining the permits have changed three times in the last four months making it very difficult to obtain the correct permits. An alternative plan being considered is to receive the permits through a different children's home in Oaxaca. When the bus arrives they then would transfer it to Casa Hogar.



We have been having bad weather with torrential rains, lightning and flash floods accompanied by various power and phone outages. It rained every day for about twelve days and the ground is totally saturated. The flood waters rose up to the front steps of our new home but didn't go inside. Praise the Lord. Water was rushing so fast down the street that it carried someone's refrigerator in it's current. It was also so high it was coming in the door of the van! Lightning hit near the home damaging the fax phone and a new washing machine. Unfortunately more hurricanes are off the coast.

Whom Shall I Send? Here I Am Lord Send Me. We were very blessed to have Renee Kohlhepp of Eau Claire, WI, stay with us for an entire year. Renee is a 23 year old graduate of the University of Wisconsin, River Falls campus. Renee has her teaching degree and taught English at the Rhema Bible School as well as organized the office and much much more! Renee was also in charge of the boy's dorms. Twenty-two little boys, ages 5-12. She did a really good job of instilling in the boys the need to make the best decisions possible. It is obvious that Renee came to meet a real area of need at Casa Hogar. Truly words do not express the gratitude that we have in our hearts for all the love and care that she has shown to all of us in the past year. She will be missed greatly. We know that God's hand is strongly upon her and we wish her all the best for a very successful future.

Prayer Requests:



Please please pray for: *A unified decision on how to proceed to obtain the necessary border permits allowing Bryan and the bus with all its contents to travel to Oaxaca safely without any holdups. *The completion of many work projects before school starts on August 15th. *That in the midst of all the activity we would be able to give the workers much needed vacation time and that they would come back with a fresh vision for their lives and the lives of the children. *For finances.

Praise Reports:



We were very blessed to have a group of two dentists, a doctor and an ophthalmologist fly down from Corpus Christi, TX, for a two day health clinic for the children and staff at Casa Hogar. All of the staff and children received dental and eye exams. Prescription glasses were provided for those who needed them. Seven children are waiting for their glasses to arrive via mail because their specific prescription wasn't available in the large selection of glasses they brought with them. The visiting doctor was able to write needed prescriptions and leave medication that will rid everyone of internal parasites.

Visiting Groups:

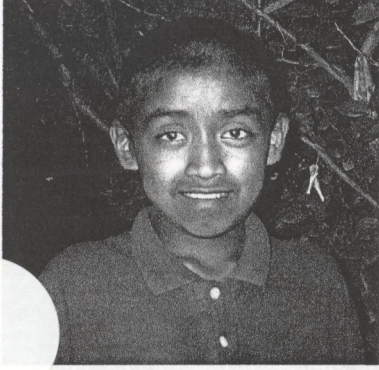
A group of twenty-four people arrived from First Christian Church in Napa, CA. In spite of the huge challenge of working around the inclement weather a tremendous amount of work was accomplished! What first started out as a simple project remodeling the boy's bathroom turned into a major remodeling project. They built a steep roof that encompasses the laundry, office, kitchen, visitors quarters and boy's bathroom located near the screened porch. It was like an old fashioned barn raising. The back wall had to be raised by 4 ft. which



created space for another level under the new roof. The wall was built, metal structure welded and asbestos roof put on in less than two weeks! We now have space for a meeting room, upstairs office, dorm and a bathroom. They also bought two new maytag commercial washers and revamped the laundry room so the water flows correctly now. A new refrigerator for the kitchen was also purchased and the girls dorms and the outside of Fran & Carol's new home was painted. In addition to all of that, they were able to spend quite a bit of time getting the Awana Program started by helping train the leaders/facilitators. The kids loved the songs and games.

We now have a group here for one week from London, England called, "World Challenge", a non-christian high school program. Seventeen high school senior girls and three advisors just arrived. Their project is to build a rock/pebble floor around the playground. They may also buy some park benches to put around the edge. Carol would like to have a raised platform tall enough for wheel chairs to fit under, built so they can make a sandbox for the less mobile children to play in and hopefully put up outside lights.

Spotlight Child: Jesus Sanchez Jarquin



Jesus Sanchez Jarquin, "Chucho" is thirteen years old and has lived at Casa Hogar with his younger sister, Fabirola, since he was four. His father was killed five years ago after the hurricane and his mother has recently moved out of the village and acquired a small property on the other side of Oaxaca. At the age of three Chucho developed a mysterious eye disease that has left him almost completely blind in his right eye and with severe damage in his left. He has been to at least ten different specialist who determined he must wait until he was at least 13 years of age so his eyes will have quit growing before he could have surgery. Chucho is now scheduled to receive a cornea transplant this November in his left eye. This upcoming surgery will be a realization of a long awaiting dream for him. Surgery will be performed in the state of Hidalgo at an approximate cost of \$1000 plus travel expenses. Any funds donated to help defray some of this cost would be tremendous benefit. Chucho has

graduated from 6th grade and will start junior high this fall. He is a very hard worker and does an excellent job learning new skills. He loves to ride bicycle, in spite of his limited vision, and is learning how to play the drums and keyboard. Sponsors are still needed for Chucho as he only has a partial sponsor. His clothing sizes are: shirt-men's small, pants: 29" waist, inseam 30", Shoes: men's 8.

Did you realize?

Did you realize that it costs approximately the same amount of money to live in Oaxaca, Mexico, as it does in the United States? Compare cost of these goods purchased in Oaxaca: Gasoline is \$2.75 a gallon, Milk is \$2.90 a gallon, a kilo of beans (2 lbs) of beans is \$1.10, Chickens \$1.50 a pound, Hamburger a \$1.20 lb., Peanut butter is \$4.50 for a one pound jar. Things we consider necessities in the United States such as health or car insurance are simply financially out of the question. The existence and survival of Casa Hogar is solely dependant on the donations of people like you and I. There is continual need for more operating funds for the home and for Fran and Carol's personal needs. Would you please help us try to increase their support? Do you know anyone who can help meet some of the financial needs of Casa Hogar? Please share with them what the Lord is doing for the many children that call Casa Hogar their home. Thank you.

"And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of water....
Assuredly, I say to you, He shall by no means lose his reward." Matthew 10:42

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