



CASA HOGAR Benito Juárez, A. C.

Newsletter

September 2004



Grad Stats;

- 5 kids graduated from kindergarten this year and did a full length waltz at their ceremony! (See photo)
- Rebeca, Fabiola, Tino and Leo-mar graduated from grade school and also did a waltz! Formal attire was worn by all graduates
- Evaristo and Ruth graduated from Junior - Hi. Evaristo wants to study accounting and Ruth is in a Nurses training course
- FYI - We have 9 new kids here who have taken the place of others who have left. Please pray for their adjustment time (See photo)
- School started 2 weeks ago. We are still in need of physical education uniforms and tennis shoes. Pray that teachers will not go on strike.

Notes from Fran and Carol

Happenings... That pretty much describes life at Casa Hogar since you last heard from us in February. Please accept our apologies for our lack of communication, but there has been a lot going on... Changes, challenges, champions, chaos, character building, checking, cherishing, children, choosing, churning... and the list could go on and on... but thru it all, one thing has remained steadfast, and that is God's faithfulness to us!

Although it could be said that these last 6 months have been quite turbulent, we have been safely and securely guided

and cared for thru it all. Something Fenelon wrote back in the 16th century has been a lifeline to us in these last months. "Rest in God... Adore, praise, and bless God for everything! See Him in all things.

There is no longer anything truly evil in your life for God uses even the most terrible sufferings to work for your good because you love Him. Can the troubles God uses to purify your life be called evil? Think of what these troubles have accomplished in your life."

Truly much has been accomplished! And we are grateful



Marin Family

to God and also to each of you who faithfully continue to stand with us. Blessings to you!

Debt Reduction

In April we informed you of our great financial need, and frankly your response was overwhelming. Thankfully we did not need to reduce the number of children living here. Lord willing, we hope to be 100% debt free by years'

end.

We still have an outstanding amount but it is only about 15% of what the total was. Those desiring to help us be in the black may do so by mailing your gifts to New Covenant and marking them

"debt reduction."

Thanks for being such an integral part of the Casa Hogar Team. Your love and faithfulness have made a huge difference in the lives of these 69 kids who call Casa Hogar their home.



Oh to see the heavens!

Praise Reports

Oh to see the heavens!

In March, Chucho, Ismael, Tabita, Abram, Victoria and Alexis went to Huejutla de Reyes, Hidalgo, to have eye surgeries, which were performed free of charge by several doctors from the states.

Chucho, age 13, who has been at Casa Hogar for 10

years now, received a cornea transplant that literally revolutionized his life. After seeing only two feet in front of himself since the age of 3, he is now able to see 20/20!

When the doctor took the patch off of his right eye, Chucho said, "Oh! So that is what the sky looks like!" Imagine being 13 years old and seeing the sky clearly for the first time! FYI, Chucho's other eye has also been

totally clouded for 10 ten years—but God did a miracle!! TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Ismael had a thick cataract removed, and Victoria and Alexis both had their eyes uncrossed. Abram will hopefully have reconstructive surgery and cataract surgery in November in Chiapas.

A Friend of God for 30 Years

Come and Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Casa Hogar with us.

IMAGINE being single and bound to a wheelchair, quitting your job, selling everything you own, and going to live in a country where you cannot even speak their language, where you own nothing, and where you are unable to work legally to gain a living...

IMAGINE telling your family and friends that you believe God is calling you to start a children's home (with no funding, no building, and no helpers) in a foreign country...

IMAGINE having faith to trust that still, small voice that told you to GO... to DO... to LOVE... to BELIEVE. "Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness and he was called a Friend of God." (James 2:23) And I believe that Albert Lynn Baker, the founder of Casa Hogar, was also called a Friend of God.

IMAGINE dedicating your life to something as unsure as being a missionary, being sick all the time, lack-

ing funds, having no telephone, no ATM card, no internet access, no lights, very little water, but BELIEVING GOD.

On October 24th of this year Casa Hogar will celebrate its 30th year of serving the children of Oaxaca. YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COME AND PRAISE GOD WITH US FOR ALL THAT HE HAS DONE OVER THESE PAST 30 YEARS.

Happenings - Photos on opposite page



AWANA Club meeting

Happenings... from top left, clockwise

- Chucho after his cornea transplant.
- Al Baker, founder of Casa Hogar Benito Juárez, with wife Brenda, daughter Rebecca and son Benito.
- New Arrivals: Top Usvaldo, Esperanza, Dahlia,

Dionisio, Paula. Bottom Mitzi, David, David, Juan, Carlos.

-Our kindergarten graduates: Victor, Pedro, Daniel, Luz



Spotlight Child

Meet Mitzi Jazmin Antonio Jimenez who is perhaps one of the sweetest little girls who have ever come to live here at Casa Hogar. But you would never have thought that of her when she first arrived here...

Picture a little slip of a girl who is hungry, filthy from head to toe, full of sores, who bites, screams, cries, swears, and hits all day long. Now picture the little girl you see on the right of this page. She is fun-loving, hard-

working, respectful, and peaceful. And she loves to talk and hug and color. She has been transformed from an abused, neglected, traumatized child into a little angel. Living at Casa Hogar has truly given her dignity and security.

Mitzi and her 8 year old brother David are both in need of sponsors. They are *struggling to heal the very hurtful relationship* that they have had with their 24 year

old single mom who also has severe health problems.

Won't you please consider sponsoring them to help fill the needy void they have.

They have so much love to give!

For more info on sponsorship, please contact Sandra Vold at New Covenant Church.



Mitzi and Luz
Mitzi's Birthday May 25th 1999

Things go SWIFTly at Casa Hogar "Benito Juárez", A. C.

It is with great joy that we welcome Paul and Elaine Swift and their children Hannah, 14, and Matthew, 17, into the Casa Hogar family.

Paul is our bus driver and maintenance man and is in charge of the construction projects when groups come. He is overseeing the boys work duty and keeps all of our vehicles running,

Elaine is a registered

nurse and is teaching the workers first aid, helping wounded kids, and teaching English in the Bible School. She is the cook for groups and is overseeing the cleaning, kitchen, and laundry services. She is our resident prayer warrior and is helping to establish order in the office.

Hannah is our resident librarian and keeps the library up and running.

And Matthew is our joy boy who brings a smile and laughter wherever he goes.

The Swifts are from Minnesota and have made a one year commitment to serve wholeheartedly at Casa Hogar. They are already loved by all who are here. Pray for their adjustment period. Welcome, Friends!!

The Swifts moved here to Oaxaca to fulfill the call of God on their lives. We Are Blessed!

Divertido - Photos on opposite page

Divertido (Fun!) from upper left corner, clockwise

-After all the chores and homework are done, Juan and Memo enjoy playing foosball.

-Ricardo doing his job of counting the water jugs. "How many more do we

need, Rich?"

-Our new workers, Paul and Elaine Swift and son Matthew with Pep enjoying the zocalo downtown. (daughter Hannah not pictured) Welcome to Oaxaca! Boy are we glad that you are here!

-Ole, Usvaldo and Felicitos hanging out in the

new library where they have over 2000 books at their disposal. They also have a computer to do their homework on.



How many fit on a trampoline?



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Benito Juárez, A. C.

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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. Telephone 507 532 3187.

Thank You!

Special thanks to our wonderful family of helpers! They have transformed Casa Hogar this summer with all their hard work.

Calvary Lutheran- Omaha, NE
Perrow Presbyterian- Poca, WV
Church of the Living Water- Muscatine, IA
World Challenge Group- London, England
Shady Grove Church graduating Seniors- Irving, TX

To Noel, Megan, Kristi and Matt for taking on the responsibility of being dorm parents this summer.

You will make great parents someday! Congrats, Matt and Kristi, on your wedding!

To our international daughters, Pep from Bavaria and Charlotte from Amsterdam, for your months of extreme labors of love with Esther and David. You have made an eternal difference in their lives!

To our Simply Smiles brigade: Bryan, Kristen, Renee, and Janelle for everything!

To Dale and Victoria for fixing all our leaking

roofs. Bless you!

To Timothy and Brian and Lee for feeding our spirits.



Chuck (Omaha) if you ever want to paint again, there's lots more to do!