



Casa Hogar Benito Juárez

Summer 2006

The Path to Oaxaca.....

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.



Back row: Dick Cover & Earl Kellum. Front Row: Carol Cover, Sandra Vold & Carol

As a young child, I was greatly impacted each time a missionary visited our church. I was compelled by their testimonies & my heart felt a great stirring as they shared. I remember saying, at the age of eight, that I would be a missionary some day.

One lonely night in 1977 while visiting my sister and in the midst of the 24 hour flu, God spoke to my heart from Isaiah 6:8. My spirit responded to this message, "Here am I, send me."

Fast forward to 1987, very early on a beautiful January morning Earl Kellum (missionary for over 50 years) called to ask me to pray about going to Casa Hogar Benito Juárez in Oaxaca, Mexico. There was a need for someone to help care for the indigenous and special needs children of that impoverished area.

Again, my spirit responded, "Here am I, send me."

After selling everything I owned except a few kitchen items, my clothing and my typewriter, my good friend Deb Blaha & I departed for language school in McAllen TX the fall of 1987. We were sent out as a team with the blessing from our church.

Upon finishing the nine month course, Deb & her new husband Tom Hartley departed for Guatemala and I embarked for Oaxaca. I traveled down in my 1977 Chevy Impala, a graduation gift from my parents and uncles.



Carol and her first group of children



Three eventful days later on July 27, 1988, I arrived at Casa Hogar. What did I find? To start 14 scorpions in the room where I would be sleeping, no curtains in the room, no glass in the windows & no water in the bathroom. There was no telephone — no cry for help could be made.

The furniture consisted of three metal bed frames with no mattresses, so I chose to sleep on the floor since I had only a sleeping bag. The next day I found out the roof leaked? And oh, how I longed for a chair to sit on.

By September of 1988, I had received three little boys in the Casa Hogar, all whom had cerebral palsy. The support we received that first year averaged \$100 to \$150 a month.

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Carol's story continued ~

We had grown to a family of twelve by February 1989. Casa Hogar was in sore need of repairs, and each day my faith was challenged. Pastor Bob Bernard, my second father, brought construction crews down to help on the repairs and to encourage both myself and Sergio & Luz, pastors of Palabra Viva Church.

Wycliffe translator, Brenda Baker Pensinger, who was founder Al Baker's wife, was living in Oaxaca with their two children. She helped me immensely by giving me tips and information on the basics of running Casa Hogar and living in Oaxaca. My weekly visits with both Brenda and missionary Merry Johnson & family were welcome respite after speaking Spanish each day until I had a migraine, being the only caregiver of 12 children and eating beans & rice for days on end.



Carol & Fran's
Wedding



Carol & Fran Martin
Summer 2006

Each day brought new experiences, such as trying to find out where to purchase purified drinking water or how to get money out of the bank without standing in line for six hours. There were thousands of opportunities to cry out to God to help us and to provide for our needs.

It has been 19 years since I was asked to serve in Oaxaca and left for language school. I am blessed to say that I know WHOM I have believed, and God is faithful!

Many ask how can it be that I still passionately love Casa Hogar and its children, plus live without the security of a savings account, health & life insurance or a retirement plan? The answer is easy: God will complete the work He has begun in me and in the ministry here. He has promised to give me all things pertaining to life (food, shelter, love, to name a few) and godliness. We have all been given a measure of faith. I am thankful to be able to say, "here am I, send me" and to know that my trust in Him will lead me to the destiny that He has for my life.

The book Casa Hogar, The House that Love Built, is available. Contact Pastor Bernie Wing or Sandra Vold to obtain a copy. A donation of \$5.00 is being requested for the book.

Spotlight Child

Alejandro Chavez Antonio
Birth date: August 13, 2000

Alejandro is our newest child at Casa Hogar. His recent arrival from his Zapotec village located about four hours from here has left him somewhat confused.

Although he is six years old, Alex, as we lovingly call him, appears to be only 3 or 4 years old. His small stature would trick you into believing that he is still somewhat a baby, but he is all boy.

While his character is tranquil and somewhat detached, his spirit is open and yearning to learn. Already he has learned to ride a bicycle and has attended a pajama party and he loves to play on the playground equipment. Roller skating is the next thing he would love to learn.



Alex lives here with his older sister, Gisela. His elderly parents desire for him to grow up in an atmosphere that is not saturated by drugs, drinking & violence. It was for these reasons they asked us to receive him in our care. Alex's father is a subsistence level farmer and his aspirations for his young son include education, prosperity and love. The father also wants his son to speak fluent Spanish and English.

Your sponsorship of Alex can help open the doors to a world that his father can only dream of and a world that Alex is clueless to understand right now. Are you ready to meet this need?



Reaching out....touching others, all part of life at Casa Hogar

Thank you to all who have visited Casa Hogar this spring & summer giving of yourselves to move the ministry ahead. To all our family & friends of the ministry, your ongoing love & support makes Casa Hogar the special home it is today. Without you we would not be here.



What was done this summer - hundreds, no thousands of paving stones were laid in the play area and around the soccer field. Preparing these areas for the stones had to be done first...a lot of muscle power was used & backbreaking work was done.

The computer lab was built, painted, desks were made, concrete was poured for the site. Electrical wiring installed in the building by Bill McKeag.

Another thousand more paving stones were laid...this was a big project. Then more concrete poured for the making of the soccer field.

Carol and Fran's house was painted and work done on the house. The Sunday school rooms were painted and the electrical wiring completed. A roof was built over the laundry area at Casa Hogar.

Playing with the children, taking the kids swimming and loving the children.

Our heartfelt thanks to Bill McKeag; Monroe Congregational Church, Monroe CT; Xavier High School, Appleton WI; Greens Farms Congregational Church, Greens Farms, CT; Covenant International Church, Dallas TX; Victory Christian Church, Balaton MN; Calvary Lutheran, Omaha NE; Make a Difference, New Haven CT and Simply Smiles, Naugatuck CT. So much was accomplished and could not of been done without your time & finances!

For progress report on projects go to www.simplysmiles.org

Urgent Prayer Needed for Oaxaca City

For the past five months, the teachers in Oaxaca have been on strike. As of the writing of this newsletter, there has been no resolution to the strike and the situation has become worse. What has happen is that our dear city of Oaxaca looks like a war zone and graffiti is everywhere. The teachers have been joined by fractional groups. There is unrest, many cars and buses have been burned, radio stations are being taken over by the protestors, plus there are night fires and road blocks.

It started months ago with some 40,000 teachers taking over the center of the city and things have escalated to what is happening today. As of August 29, stores and banks were going to close plus taxi and bus lines to stop working in an effort to get the government to react and resolve the situation.

We ask that you join with us in praying for peace to come to the city and a resolution come quickly. Thank you. *Fran, Carol and the Casa Hogar Family*

Casa Hogar Benito Juárez

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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
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Telephone 507-532-3187*

For general & sponsorship information contact
Sandra Vold at the New Covenant Church address or by e-mail at
chbjsponsorship@yahoo.com

Traveling to Mexico in 2007

Beginning January 1, 2007 a passport will be required for those arriving in Mexico by air and sea. A birth certificate will no longer be sufficient. Travelers arriving by land will be required to carry a passport beginning January 1, 2008. Plan accordingly for your trip to Mexico, it sometimes takes up to six weeks to obtain a passport.



Also check with your airline carrier regarding new carry on restrictions.

In loving memory of Oda Dwire
a financial gift was given by
Fran & Carol Marin

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2140 Hwy 3 South
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