

Dear Friends and Family,

January 12, 2007

The Lord has been so graciously providing for the project of the children's home that we don't even know where to begin! We are so thankful to God and to the men who have helped us with the donated materials, planning, funding, and construction of the home. The building is approximately one month away from completion, and we are making preparations to open as soon as possible after that. Day by day the Lord is preparing Emmis and me for this work, and we are eager to begin operation of the children's home because we see such a great need for it.



A big thanks to Bob Cote, who donated all the interior and exterior paint for the home and even came down to Juarez to paint from Dec. 15-16, joined by my sister and some of her college friends (see picture). That weekend we were able to finish painting the entire exterior of the home and begin painting the interior perimeter block walls. The week before Christmas, Pete, who has been helping us coordinate this project, came down from Arkansas with his wife and kids, his parents, and his brothers and their families. We had a wonderful time! Pete and his crew finished painting the interior cinder block, built approximately twelve sets of bunk beds, and

started building a playground outside. The children that came down with Pete's group put on a Christmas play at the children's home for the people of the neighborhood, and we had a very good turnout! It was a great opportunity to introduce the purpose of the children's home to the community (many people have seen the building, but don't know what it is). After Christmas, my family came down to Juarez on a mission trip with a group from my home church, Faith Church, in Rio Rancho, NM. I loved having my family here, and everyone was amazed to see the progress that has been made on the children's home. The group from Faith did a Bible school for kids, a women's sewing class, and worked on finishing the dorms for the Bible institute at Grace Church.

The most recent team that came from the U.S. was from Kansas City. They helped me do a vacation Bible school at the children's home! (see picture). We had a total of nearly forty children that came each day from the surrounding community, and we were able to introduce the home to them and their parents and to share with them our mission. I taught Bible stories that related to our mission at the children's home; teaching them that God is always with us, takes care of us, and provides for our needs.



As far as construction status goes, we are in the final stages!



Five men came about a week ago and hung all the interior drywall (approx. 27,000 ft.) in two days. Plumbers and electricians came in before that -- all did a great job! Thank you so much to those who donated construction materials for the building, as well as those who donated their time to come down and work. Tasks that are currently being done include applying tape and mud on the drywall, putting trim around the windows, and finishing the cinder block wall surrounding the property. Emmis and I will be moving into the home very soon and hope to begin furnishing it in preparation for opening. We are currently working on operational plans so that we will be ready to begin receiving children.

We are also preparing for our first meeting of the board of directors of Rivers of Mercy Children's Home. Thank the Lord for the Godly men on the board who are willing to dedicate so much time and work to helping us make this project happen!

Now more than ever we need your prayers. Please pray that God would provide the funds we need for start-up costs, furnishings, and the daily operation of the home. Pray also for the children that will soon be living here, and for Emmis and I and the others who will be caring for and loving these kids. Thank you so much for your prayers and support!

Don't forget to check out our website and online photo album. We are doing our best to keep these updated and current.

Website: <http://www.riverofmercy.org>
Photo album: <http://picasaweb.google.com/riversofmercy/childrenshome>

Praise the Lord—Emmis finally received his visa on January 3rd (after several unsuccessful attempts), enabling him to enter the U.S. with me. The last week of this month we will be making a trip to visit my family in Albuquerque, NM, where he will finally be able to see my home, visit my church, and meet my friends. Thanks so much to those of you who diligently prayed for this!

Love, Kristin and Emmis Robles