



March 22, 2009

Happy Spring from Rivers of Mercy Children's Home!

We are excited to share about the happenings here at the orphanage over the past few months. Our numbers are back up and we currently have eighteen children, eleven girls and seven boys, ranging in ages 3-8. Our desire for quite some time has been that we would not only have children from DIF (the Mexican social services), but also have children in need from families in the community and city of Juarez (outside of DIF). God seems to be fulfilling this vision, since eight of our present eighteen children are not from the social services. Although these children have not been forcibly removed from their homes due to abuse, most of them were suffering from severe neglect or did not have any family members who were able to care for them. Five of the eight are children of single dads, who were struggling desperately to raise their children and provide for them without any help. On the weekends these children are visited by a family member, whom we try to offer help and guidance to as much as possible. We are confident that it is the Lord's will that these kids are here.



Our days are very busy with Bible lessons, school, and homework. We continue to do school at the orphanage with the children for a couple of hours every morning. I (Kristin) teach the first-graders and our right-hand worker, Martha, teaches the kindergarteners. We put a lot of time and effort into planning their school activities to maximize their learning. I am working on meeting the requirements to become validated as a teacher here in Mexico, which include finalizing my legal status here as well as presenting my school grades, translated and certified, since the 6<sup>th</sup> grade through college! Yes, this seems pretty ridiculous to us considering I have a college degree and teaching license in the U.S., but I guess I must abide by the Mexican laws! Emmis stays busy working on financial matters with our accountant, matters relating to my immigration status with our lawyer, paying bills, running errands to the bank, and beginning to comply with requirements necessary for our dream of a school here one day. He also is such a big help with the kids and with our son, Joel. Emmis takes the first graders to school every day, picks them up, and attends all the school meetings. Joel, our 15-month old son, is doing great. He is so independent and loves to play soccer. He also loves to play with cars and the racetrack with the other boys here.

Mary and Rachel (the "grandmas") are still living and working here full-time. They are such a blessing! Each Sunday when they arrive at the orphanage after attending church in El Paso, they bring with them meat and other food for all of us for the week! This has allowed us to save a lot on our grocery bill. Unfortunately, Evan had to return to Canada to take several classes in order to start college in the fall, but he has kept in touch and still has a real heart for the ministry here.

Recently, Pastor Julian (Emmis' dad) brought the students from his Bible Institute to the orphanage to talk with us about the ministry of the children's home. This turned into an amazing opportunity to counsel them about several points of Godly parenting, such as sharing from God's Word with their children, spending individual time with them so that they feel important and loved, teaching children that bad behavior has bad consequences and vice versa, etc. The Bible institute students were so convicted by this discussion to invest more in their children, and Pastor Julian was so pleased that he asked us to have this same discussion with his church congregation and with the congregations of the mission churches. Obviously we are not parenting experts, but we do have some Biblical advice to share that we have learned as a part of this ministry.

As many of you know, the city of Juarez has been filled with increasing violence for quite some time now. Many of you have expressed genuine concern for us. Thank you for your concerns and prayers. The Lord has protected us thus far, and we have yet to see or experience any violence. However, we do appreciate your continued prayers.

Thank you all so much for your part in this ministry. We are confident that we will see many of these children in heaven someday, hopefully along with their family members! We are filled with joy and strength as the Lord enables us to make an eternal difference in the lives of these children. Please continue with your prayers and support!

Check out our new blog at <http://juarezkids.blogspot.com>, where we share more about the individual children and daily activities at the orphanage.

With love,

Emmis, Kristin, Joel, & kids (*Manuel, Mauricio, Jonathan, Raul, Miguel, Beto, Emilio, Marlen, Miriam, Karen, Estrella, Isabel, Yarisdi, Maria, Marifer, Mayte, Paola, y Dulce*)

Email: [Kristina85@gmail.com](mailto:Kristina85@gmail.com)

Website: <http://RiverOfMercy.org>

Blog: <http://juarezkids.blogspot.com>



*"The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them." Psalm 34:7*