

Dear Friends and Family,

April 9, 2007

After several months of hard work and lots of progress, we are writing to you to give you an update about the children's home. Within a short period of time we will be ready to open the home and begin receiving children!

Emmis and I had a good visit in Albuquerque, NM (my hometown but his first time there!), where I was finally able to show him some important places to me and to introduce him to good friends of mine. We were also able to share about the children's home with a couple of churches, Faith Church in Rio Rancho and Living Hope in Albuquerque. A big thanks to my little brother's soccer team for donating colorful puzzle-piece foam mats for the floor in the orphanage nursery and playroom.

Upon arriving back in Juarez, a group of electricians from Arkansas came and stayed here at the orphanage for several days as they installed all the lights and security system. By the grace of God we were able to get our own electrical substation for the orphanage and had the power turned on before the electricians left. By the middle of February, we had installed lights and full electrical power, the hot water heaters were working, the security system was functioning, and the chain link fence above the cinder block wall around the property was finished. The front gate and sign are now in place as well!

We enjoyed several visits that we received here at the children's home. It was great to meet Pastors Rick and Matt from First Baptist Church in Rio Rancho and to see Bob again...we look forward to working with you all this summer. Bob and Lezlie and our other friends from Living Hope, thank you for your help painting the trim in the orphanage!

Near the beginning of March Emmis, myself, and Bill (the man from the U.S. who lived down here and was in charge of the construction of the orphanage) began to work more closely together as we prepared for the transition of Bill leaving and us being fully responsible for getting the building ready for children to live in. We bought several necessary appliances for the children's home (washer & dryer, stove, refrigerator), and on March 3rd Emmis and I moved into the children's home! We *love* living here! On March 10th we held a party here at the orphanage to celebrate finishing the construction of the building. We invited the local men who worked to construct the building, their families, and other people who had helped us out with the building in some way. It was a bittersweet time as we were excited that the orphanage building was done, but we knew that Bill would soon be leaving. Bill lived here for one entire year building the orphanage, and we are so grateful to him. We became good friends and we hope he comes back often.



Bill, Emmis, & Kristin



Painting the living room

and she plans to return soon to paint a mural in the boys' dorm room! We'd like to thank MPCC for all the needed items that families in their church have purchased for the children's home.

In March we had two groups come on mission trips here to the children's home. A large group of college students came from Christian Student Center in Albuquerque, NM. They stayed for about five days and finished painting all the trim as well as painted the primer in the entire building! Then a group came from Mesilla Park Community Church in Las Cruces, NM. One of the ladies from this church painted a very cute mural on the wall in the girls' dorm room in the children's home. She did a wonderful job



Cindy painting the mural in the girl's room

Our last bit of news is that Emmis and I were able to take a two-week trip to Kansas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma to spend time with and to thank our board members, who have been so involved in the orphanage project. We were also able to share about the children's home in churches and with various gatherings of people and to raise financial

support for the operation of the home. We really enjoyed getting to know Ron, Pete, Al & Judy, Chuck, and their families better. In all, we had many fun experiences (lots of fishing ☺), saw some new country, met many new people, and were encouraged and strengthened. The Lord also continued to show His goodness, as on this trip a 15-passenger van was donated for the children's home, as well as a computer system for the office and all the money needed to finish furnishing the home in order to open! We would like to thank those of you who generously gave; may the Lord continue to bless you so that you may continue to bless others.



Eating famous Kansas City BBQ with Ron

Finally, we'd like to invite everyone to the **Dedication Service for Rivers of Mercy Children's Home, which will be held on Saturday, April 28th, at 2:00 p.m.** It will take place here at the children's home in Juarez, Mexico. We'd like to take this opportunity to show everyone the building, to commit the home to the Lord in prayer, and to feed everyone some authentic Mexican food! We would love for you to be here for it! After this, our plan is to have the orphanage ready to begin receiving children in May. We are so excited to begin caring for and loving these children that the Lord sends to us!

To those of you who continue to financially support Emmis and me on a regular basis, we thank you. Your faithful giving is enabling us to dedicate our lives to this project. Your donations should still be sent to Bridge the Gap International in Tulsa, OK. However, this address may change in the future.

For others who desire to help the children's home financially, we invite you to prayerfully consider sending monthly financial support for the operation of the orphanage. Checks should be made out to "Rivers of Mercy," and all donations are tax deductible. Financial gifts can be sent to:

Rivers of Mercy Children's Home
P.O. Box 1133
Mount Ida, AR 71957

Love and blessings,
Emmis & Kristin Robles

Email: kristina85@gmail.com

Website: <http://riverofmercy.org>

Online photos: <http://picasaweb.google.com/riversofmercy>

P.S. We have been sending out our newsletter via email. If you would prefer to get it via postal mail, please let us know.



Singing and sharing at Mill Creek Church in Kansas



New gate and sign outside the children's home