

July 29, 2006

Dear Friends and Family,

Wow--it's hard to believe that the planning, the wedding, and the honeymoon are already over! The wedding was beautiful and the honeymoon was relaxing, and Emmis and I are so happy to be back in Juarez working hard for the Lord! It was wonderful that so many of you were able to come to our wedding in Juarez; thank you for making the trip down here to be a part of it. For our honeymoon, we went to Puerto Vallarta and stayed in a beautiful hotel on the beach in a room with a balcony overlooking the ocean. This was Emmis' first time seeing the ocean, and we enjoyed walking along the beach, swimming in the huge hotel pool, and shopping downtown.

We arrived home on Friday, July 21 and immediately continued working on finishing our house, where we will be living until the completion of the orphanage. It is a small house near the orphanage that we bought from a lady in the church. Before the honeymoon, Emmis added on a new room, and since we've been back, we've been working on painting, installing windows and doors, installing the electricity, and buying appliances. It is still not quite ready, so in the meantime we have been living in a small Sunday school room at the church. We should be able to move into our new house in about a week.

This past week there has been a team from Tijeras, New Mexico, staying here at Grace Bible Church. They came for a week-long mission trip and spent most of their time helping out at Pastor Julian's older son's church in the colonia of Carlos Chavira. The team helped with construction projects during the day and did a vacation Bible school in the evening every night. Emmis and I went with the team to the church in Carlos Chavira every night to help with the VBS. We led the songs together, and I taught the Bible story to the younger children (ages 3-5) on several of the nights. I also helped translate for the team during the VBS and we helped teach the verse and make the crafts with the children every evening. I felt so content and "in my element" taking care of children and teaching them about God. I know that God showed His kindness to me by allowing me to be a part of this vacation Bible school. Josue, the Pastor, was excited because on several nights we had more than 100 children, many new women, and several men that attended.

Tomorrow (Sunday, July 30) Emmis and I are leaving on a mission trip to Durango, Mexico. Pastor Julian and his wife, Beatriz, Kali Boeckman, my sister Jessica, and several other people from the church are also going. Our plan is to meet with Angel, a missionary that Grace Bible Church sent out several months ago, who began a small church in Durango and is the pastor. We will meet with him and two other pastors in the nearby area to come up with a ministry plan and form a strategic partnership between the churches.

Bill (the man from Arkansas who is living in Juarez working on the children's home) and other men from the church are still working hard constructing the children's home; the foundation and plumbing are complete, the window and door frames are in, and the cinder block walls are up. Bill has given us a finish date of January 1st. Until then,

Emmis and I are seeking information about DIF's (the government) requirements for the children's home and working to meet them so that we can begin receiving children as soon as possible after the completion. Our plan is that for the first year of operation, while Emmis and I will probably be the only full-time workers in the home, we will receive no more than ten children. As we get more full-time workers and financial support for the children's home, we will be able to receive more children.

Thank you again so much for your prayers and financial support. We are excited for you to know about all the work that God is doing here in Juarez!

In Christ,  
Emmis & Kristin Robles  
Rivers of Mercy Children's Home



**Rivers of Mercy Children's Home**



**VBS in Carlos Chavira**