



July 27, 2008

Hello to all!!!

We hope that you are enjoying the warm weather and fun activities of summer. It is wonderful to be back at the orphanage and doing what God called us to do. We love it!!! Praise the Lord—He has continued to bless the ministry of Rivers of Mercy Children's Home and we currently have sixteen children! Yes, that's right, sixteen! There are nine boys and seven girls ranging in ages 2-8. It is exciting to have such a large number of children. We are thankful to have excellent, reliable employees—several women that are good friends of ours that attend the church help us immensely. We have also learned how to operate the orphanage more efficiently, allowing us to receive more children and at the same time to spend time together and get the rest we need.

Just a few weeks ago, Itzel, one of the girls we have had since we opened in May of 2007, was able to return to the custody of her grandma. It was very difficult for us to let her go. We had grown to love her like our own daughter and we miss her more than we had even imagined we would. Aaron is the only one of our original eight children that is still here at the orphanage.

Over the past several months, we have been frustrated as we have realized that the Mexican social services (DIF), which has been the main source of the children we receive, definitely does not have the same vision that we do. They can remove the children at any time, sometimes with little or no warning. They have told us they do not want us or the children to get emotionally attached, which, as you can imagine, is impossible! Our goal is to show the love of Christ to these children. How can we do that without becoming emotionally attached? As a result, God has shown us that He wants us to head in the direction of working more with children and families in our community rather than with DIF. So, our desire is that several years down the road we will not only be helping needy children from the community, but also their parents, in order to get more at the root of the problem of these abused, neglected, and abandoned children. We actually received the first children from our community about a month ago—three young siblings whom we had been hearing reports about from their neighbors. Sadly, their mom abandoned the family, and their father, who is now homeless because of being kicked out of his home by his wife's family, could simply not take care of three young children and provide for them at the same time. We have agreed to care for the children (ages 2, 4, & 5) for a minimum of six months while their father gets established and some problems are resolved.

We are thankful to the Lord for providing a group of men and teens from Utah and Illinois to build a large front patio so that the children can play in the shade!!! They stayed at the orphanage while they were here and were a huge blessing! They did most of the work planning the trip, ordering the construction materials, and even cooked the meals for all of us every day! Also, thanks to City Church for donating the money to buy swamp coolers for the kids' dorm rooms and for helping to install them.

We are also very grateful to Raul and Monica Rodriguez and their daughters for all of their help here at the orphanage for the past several months. They will be moving back to Arkansas next week in order to return in time to enroll their daughters in school. We want to thank them for being obedient to God's call to serve here at Rivers of Mercy Children's Home and we will pray for the Lord to give them guidance as to what His next missionary assignment is for them in the future.

Our family is doing well—Emmis has been busy scouting out an accountant to help us report our expenditures to the Mexican equivalent of the IRS. I (Kristin) love just staying here at the orphanage and being with the children. I enjoy teaching them the daily Bible story and doing fun activities with them. Joel is now almost seven months old. He is doing great and has gotten so much bigger! He is so easygoing and the other children really enjoy playing with him.

Please pray for:

- Wisdom about the extent of our involvement with DIF in the future
- For God to change the children’s hearts and behavior as they learn and accept Jesus as their Savior—especially Carlos (7 years old) who has some kind of hyperactive disorder and is quite a handful

Thank you all so much for your prayers and support! May the Lord continue using you to bless this ministry!

In Christ,  
Emmis, Kristin, & Joel Robles



Nicky, Aslie, and Joel



In front of our new patio with the group from Utah and Illinois

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