

HOGAR DE AMOR Y PROTECCIÓN AL NIÑO, AC



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"Today's orphans, Tomorrow's leaders"

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Merry Christmas



As we head into the last couple weeks before Christmas, we cannot but help look back over the year 2011 and give thanks to the Lord for all He has done. We have a thankful heart for each one of you who have so faithfully supported the ministry here with your prayers, gifts and finances over the past year, allowing us to meet the needs of the over 150 children that we presently have in care.

We want to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and pray that the New Year 2012 will be a year of experiencing God's special blessing over your lives and of those close to you

Cautiousness vs. Rashness

Knowing how important right timing is in accomplishing right actions.

Proverbs 3:5,6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 19:2 It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way. **"Character First!"**

One thing that hopefully we have been slowly learning is that God always wants His "best" for us but we need to be patient and wait for it in "His timing". We are so often ready to just do things because it seems like it is okay and a "good thing" but taking time to be in tune with the Holy Spirit, can really allow us to experience God's best for us, not just something good, and that is exciting.



Three year old Angela has learned to say the Lord's Prayer in English. Of course, at this age we don't expect her to know what a "debtor" is, but we can explain that to her, and also what it means to be "lead into temptation," in words she is able to understand. She is too cute when she says it – she has the sweetest little girl voice – kind of airy – and with her Mexican accent – she touches our hearts! We have been diligent in teaching the children Bible verses in both Spanish and English, so that the Word of God will be hidden in their hearts. We believe that God has a plan for Angela's life and that one day the verses will make sense to her and she will reap the benefits of her hard work at a moment when she needs it.

Feast of Tabernacles



This past October 31/November 1 Grupo Amor held its first ever Feast of Tabernacles. The event was held on the vacant church property – the future site of Instituto Adonai (our Christian school) which will as well, eventually house a congregation of Grupo Amor. All of our local homes with the exception of the preschoolers participated in the overnight event. We (Dennis and Diane) were in Canada at the time so we asked Adriana from the Casa Leonel to give us a report on their home's participation in the "Fiesta de los Tabernaculos."

"On October 31st, Grupo Amor held the Feast of Tabernacles. This event was instituted by God to the Jewish people to remind them of the time that the Israelites wandered in the wilderness. This time of the year (Halloween and Day of the Dead here in Mexico) is a time when there is a lot of spiritual darkness but we chose to get together and give praise to the one true God. We got together on the church property with the other homes. In fact, our boys from Casa Leonel went one day ahead and camped out



– a great adventure - playing and singing and having a great time. Meanwhile the girls had a pyjama party at home. The next day the girls joined the boys out at the feast. It was a beautiful time of worshiping and praising God. It was great to watch the kids singing, dancing and lifting their hands to declare that Jesus is Lord!

Later that night we got together as a family and ate supper by the light of our campfire. Adults and the kids alike were talking and remembering some of the fun times in the past. After that some of the group went to play soccer at the adjacent sports fields until little by little everyone was too tired to do anything

else but fall asleep. The next morning was an early wakeup call as Pastor Nahum was there at 7:00 a.m. to have a time of devotions with the kids. Surprisingly everyone was awake on time and in spite of being a little sleepy we had a beautiful time enjoying the open air, contemplating the heavens, feeling the Lord's presence and listening to a man who has such a great passion for God. It was a precious time. Later on we had breakfast and the kids swam in the pool where just one hour before there was a baptismal service. At lunch time we brought out the bar-b-que for a delicious lunch and then cleaned up to head home.

This was a very special time for us as a home. Even though we represent many different families, we belong to each other. Children and adults alike fellowshiped together in the open air, we ate beneath the trees, slept in tents and enjoyed the Lord's presence. We are looking forward to next year!"





Sergio Ismael and his older brother Marco entered the Casa Samuel in Ciudad Guzman in September 2011. The boys are with us because they were being mistreated. In fact, Ismael lost 2 fingers on his left hand because of this abuse. He has had 5 operations to help him recover mobility in his remaining fingers. Ismael is learning to trust the Lord. He would like to learn to play piano and is asking God for healing each day. We are trusting the Lord to minister to this young man and heal not just his hand, but the scars on his heart.



Luz is a young lady who has been with us since 2002. She "grew up" in our teen girls' home and has recently finished her studies in early childhood education and taken the giant step of moving out on her own. Someone was recently interviewing her and we thought we would include a few excerpts of that interview here. When asked about her dreams – "to finish my studies." When asked what she would like to say – "In the Casa de Señoritas I learned about a personal relationship with God. It was about more than the material, it was the love, caring, education, values – to know God and His Word. One of my main motivations, my model is Papá Nahum. I would like to say to the people who God has called to help – it is not in vain, there is fruit. There are no words to express my thanks for all that they do – people who, even though they don't know you, they cross paths with you in life and they change your life completely." When asked what she wants to do now, she says "Serve God".

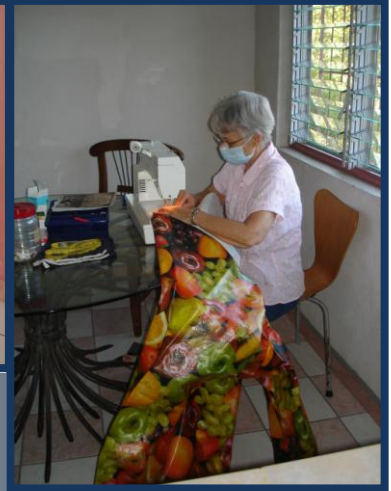
We congratulate Luz in finishing her studies and bless her in this next stage of her life. She is working in the preschool at Instituto Adonai and sharing a small home with one of the workers in Casa Leonel.

One thing that we are truly grateful for is the number of people, coming on teams, or as families or even by themselves, who come to spend time, whether it be for a week or a number of years, to serve here in one or more of the homes. This may include doing anything from being involved in new construction, to renovating, to general maintenance which usually includes painting, as paint just does not last here with the humidity. It also includes child care, house work, yard work, basketball and soccer schools, as well as putting on programs for the children which may include singing, teaching, storytelling, puppets, or clowns with the kids always of course liking to do crafts. Many times someone on a team may also end up speaking in Grupo Amor Matriz or in one of the seven church plants that we have here in the Colima area. I have would like to try and show some of this with pictures that we have taken over the past year or so. See if you can picture yourself here one day helping in one capacity or another as we are always open to having people come to be a blessing to the children, whether directly or indirectly.



Mixing and packing concrete in doing the new construction for our home called "Las Golondrinas."





Shown here is a retired couple on their 4th trip here with us. While he worked on installing irrigation or playing with the kids, she sewed mattress covers and made skirts for the little girls in the Casa Cuna.



Waiting for concrete to pour sidewalks behind the Casa Cuna

This young lady who has come as a volunteer for four months can tell you that keeping floors clean in a preschool home is work.

Painting the main gate which opens into the Casa Matriz property.

We want to thank each one of you who have had the chance to come and help here in the children's homes. If you haven't had that opportunity yet, we hope that you might make this a part of your holidays sometime in the future, to come and help the children of this area with whatever talents or interests that you may have.



This family representing 3 generations came and did construction, kids clubs, plus more



To receive an income tax receipt for any donations that you would like to make to the Children's Home, Canadian donors can send cheques to "Hope for the Nations", 222-1889 Springfield Rd., Kelowna, B.C., V1Y 5V5. In the United States, please make out and send checks to "Hope for the Nations USA", Suite 500, 7729 E. Greenway Rd., Scottsdale, Arizona, 85260. In each case please indicate that the donation is to go to "Hogar de Amor Y Protección al Niño" in Colima, Mexico. The address for "Hogar de Amor Y Protección al Niño, A.C." is, Apdo. 114, Colima, Col., México 28000