

GENESIS

Learning Experiences for Children in Orphanagessm



Fall Issue, 05

U.S.A. address:
Genesis Expeditions
P.O. Box 6458
Chula Vista, Ca. 91909

Greg Amstutz
Co-Founder
RanchoGenesis@GenesisDiez.org

Phone from U.S.A.:
011-52-646-155-0685

Mexico address:
C. Atenas #45
Col. Moderna Ampl.
Ensenada, B.C. 22879 Mexico

Gabriela Velazquez
Executive Director
Ejecutiva@GenesisDiez.org

Phone from U.S.A.:
011-52-646-174-5257

Website:
www.GenesisDiez.org

Contents

- Happening
- Author
- Vivan
- Note
- Thanks
- Funds
- Quote
- Needs

Kenneth D. Amstutz

Genesis is the official news and
update publication of
Genesis Expeditions/Diez, A.C.

© 2005 Genesis Expeditions/Diez
A.C.

So much is happening

- 13-month volunteer Amanda DeVries has arrived from Brant Bible Church, Ontario Canada.
- Genesis Diez donated baseball uniforms and equipment to 16 local Ensenada youth teams.
- Fall Mission Saturday kick off was October 29th with Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church, San Diego, CA.
- Contacted by SIMNSA Healthcare to offer medical care to orphanage children thru Genesis Diez, A.C.
- The new Costco of Ensenada has selected Genesis Diez, A.C. as a recipient of their food donation program.
- An active search for land has begun for the permanent Rancho Genesis site.
- Bethany Church, Long Beach, California donated a complete commercial playground structure.
- Sam Dyck and Brett Florio are putting the last requirements in place for our new web site.
- Fourteen orphanages/shelters (approx. 600 children) participated in week long Rancho Genesis camps this summer.
- Sportscaster, John Howard with San Diego News 8 featured a segment on Genesis Diez as we sponsored a day at Bajamar Golf Club for orphanage children.
- Our deepest gratitude goes to the 140 individuals and organizations that allowed us to meet the goal for the additional \$25,000 Sage Grant.
- Genesis Diez received our first Mexican governmental grant from one of First Lady Fox DIF programs.



Christian Author, Josh McDowell, offers Genesis Diez, A.C. a Grant

Josh McDowell is the Tithe Program chairman of The Las Ventanas Limited Partnership who is committed to serving our Lord Jesus Christ to benefit the people of Baja California, Mexico. Las Ventanas has accepted our grant application and has gifted a \$10,000 grant to Genesis Diez, A.C. In addition, they are offering to match, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$10,000, funds raised through December 31, 2005. The grant is for the Genesis Carlton Hills Dome Relocation Project.

The Project:



As mentioned in our last Newsletter, Carlton Hill Lutheran Church of Santee, CA donated four wood frame Geodesic domes to Genesis, each 1500 square feet. The domes are currently being dismantled. Then the dismantled domes will be transported to Mexico and rebuilt at the new permanent location of Rancho Genesis. Land is being searched for at this time. These domes will serve as dorms, Genesis Diez office and storage, classrooms, activities center, kitchen and dining hall to begin with. Their use will change as Rancho Genesis is built out and there is a greater ability to bring personal growth experiences to the children of Baja orphanages and shelters.

We have the opportunity to receive up to \$10,000 more dollars!! Please help us reach this goal!!

To designate your donation to go toward this project, and help Genesis with the matching funds from Las Ventanas, please send your donation in the enclosed envelope **by December 31, 2005.** **Las Ventanas Grant** can be used in the memo portion of your check.

Vivan Los Niños 2005

On Saturday, October 1, the University Theatre of Baja California was filled with the laughter and smiles of over 150 niños as they watched the production 'Un Leon Enamorado', a play about friendship. Together the characters, music, costumes, and set captured the attention of our young audience. A true highlight of the morning was when the kids were invited on stage to meet with the main characters and explore. Following the theatre, the niños went to 'Parque de Mundo Infantil', a beautiful children's park in Ensenada. Genesis is very grateful for the arrangements The President of DIF Ensenada (the First Lady) made for us to use the park free of charge. With lunch in hand, the niños ventured the grounds to find the perfect spot to eat: the top of a wooden climber, inside the tunnel of a slide, on a bench, or under a tree with some friends. The donations of bread, cheese, juice, water, and cupcakes from *Fundación Para la Protección de la Niñez, Aqua 2000 Ensenada, Baja Distribution Center S.A. de C.V.*, as well as individuals contributed to a great picnic lunch for all to enjoy!

Vivan Los Niños



With bright colors and great imagination, the kids spent part of the afternoon creating murals about the play. Two of the actors from the theatre judged the artwork and awarded prizes in three different categories: niños (individual), orphanages (team), and staff (adults). There was great excitement when the niños were presented with certificates along with a bag of brand new sports equipment, a backpack with school supplies, a watch, or a bike. The rest of the day the children participated in a variety of activities, including: face painting, sack races, musical chairs, crafts, bubbles, and inflatable jumping equipment.

There were 7 orphanages in all that enjoyed the event. Genesis is excited that included in this number was a new orphanage, whose relationship we look forward to growing over the next year. To ensure that no one missed out on the day, Genesis worked alongside each of the orphanages to help arrange transportation and assist with gas money. Also helping to make the day possible was a group of over 30 volunteers, which included over 20 students from CETYS - a high school in Ensenada. It is exciting to see how the local communities are becoming more aware of the work of Genesis and the needs in their area. Vivan Los Niños 2005 was a great success and a perfect way to start the fall and winter programs!

A Note from Patti [still in Mexico after 17 months]...

FAPing. We ask our U.S. and Canadian visiting groups to be prepared to FAP when they come to Rancho Genesis for a week. Flexibility, Adaptability and Patience. Well, that may be okay for a week at camp, but for a Virgo to FAP on a daily basis in her menopausal 50's, after living in the U.S. for ½ a century?

I'm talking about conveniences here; Postal Service for heavens sake (can you even remember when you had to stand in line to pay a bill – maybe your parents or grandparents did?), supermarkets and your bank around every corner, a warm house and hot water everyday. Don't even think about a "Mall". Ice cubes and drinking water from the refrigerator door is pie in the sky! Isn't life all about me and having every-thing convenient?

Then there appears a little face peering in the screen door, "Amiga – ayuda (help)!" and a little boy wants me to help him take the cap off his bicycle tire and turn on the switch that is just above his reach for the air pump so we can fill his tire. I receive the biggest, most beautiful, smile and a "Gracias". Then there are the kids we visited on Sunday at a TJ orphanage who we met when they were at Rancho Genesis. They just want to hug you, give you a bracelet off their wrist, or a piece of candy, or one of their stuffed animals because they are so glad to see you. They have absolutely no possessions to speak of and they want to give you what they have. Just a smile and a hug make us all feel accepted and cared for.

Okay, so I can keep a container of ice inside the freezer and a gallon of drinking water inside the fridge, drive a 'whole' hour and a half to the U.S. Post Office, the bank, and a TARGET store! I just have to look in the mirror and laugh sometimes. Life is about attitude and putting things into perspective. Life is about serving others and, in turn, we are blessed in so many different ways.

I think 'FAPing' is probably needed in every walk of life, in all surroundings. We take so many things for granted. You know, I don't even like to shop – it's just because it's not around the corner - big deal!

God's goal is not to make us happy. His goal is to make us His. His goal is not to get us what we want; it is to get us what we need. *A Gentle Thunder, Max Lucado*



Ok, if you mix children, paint, water, and sunshine What do you get?

A rainbow of smiles

A Special Thank You

Gloria a Dios (Glory to God). Wonderful memories were made at Rancho Genesis this year during day, weekend and week-long camps for orphanage children. From January through the end of summer, Genesis hosted 30 groups that helped make this possible. We would like to acknowledge them and give them a HUGE hug of appreciation. We look forward to having them back soon.

January 2005:

St. Vincent De Paul, San Diego, CA

Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church [PLCPC], San Diego, CA

February:

Calvary Presbyterian, San Francisco, CA

Bear Creek Community, Woodinville, WA

PLCPC, San Diego, CA

March:

PLCPC, San Diego, CA

Sherwood Community Friends, Sherwood, OR

Tigard Community Friends, Tigard, OR

Bethany, Long Beach, CA

April:

Calvary Baptist, Bellflower, CA

Laguna Niguel Presbyterian, Laguna Niguel, CA

PLCPC, San Diego, CA

Christ Lutheran, Valencia, CA

LaCanada Presbyterian, La Canada, CA

May:

New Frontiers, Dowelltown, TN [Installed a low ropes course]

PLCPC, San Diego, CA

Adventure Christian, Roseville, CA

June:

New Hope Fellowship, Springdale, AR

Valley Presbyterian, Paradise Valley, AZ

Calvary Presbyterian, San Francisco, CA

First Presbyterian, Ashland, OR

River Valley Community, Mishawaka, IN

July:

Lutheran Church of the Incarnate, Poway, CA

Commitment for Change team, Oxnard, CA

Delaware Korean United Methodist, Hockessin, DE

Joy Lutheran, Parker, CO

Upside Student Ministry, Vienna, VA

Park Hills Frontline Student Ministries, Freeport, IL

August:

Carlton Hill Lutheran, Santee, CA

First Congregational Church of Christ, Corona, CA

Santa Margarita UMC, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA

Brant Bible, Burlington, Ontario, Canada

A little sand, a pinch of shade, a teaspoon of jokes, a cup of laughter, a bucket of sharing, and a wheelbarrow of fun

Leads to a heart full of LOVE



To make a gift to 'Restricted' Funds: (Funds used for a specific purpose)

Helping Hands Program: This fund offers support for full-time volunteers who come to serve the children living in orphanages, thru Genesis. No foreign person who is volunteering in Mexico receives a salary for his or her work. Currently, two couples are receiving support through this program. In addition, Greg and Patti who have donated two years as fulltime volunteers, are now in need of the helping hands support.

Land and Building Fund: Genesis is currently using the land of others for their 'Rancho Genesis' program sites. Puerta de Fe in La Mision (North site) and Agua Viva, a Christian women's rehab facility that houses the women's children on site (South site). They both have graciously allowed Genesis to use their respective land to run the Genesis camp programs. As the vision of Rancho Genesis grows and the last few years of summer camp success moves us forward, we need our own land. More and more groups and orphanages are finding Rancho Genesis. Genesis Diez, A.C. is actively searching the area between Cantamar and Ensenada for 10-20 acres. This fund will be used to purchase the land and begin building Rancho Genesis. If our prayer for donated land is granted, any money in this fund would be used for fencing and building.

Make your check payable to Genesis Expeditions, Inc. Designate in the memo portion of your check the name of the Fund. To ensure your gift toward the Helping Hands program is tax-deductible, please designate "Helping Hands" only. A gift directed to an individual through a 501(c)3 organization is not tax-deductible.

A Quote

From an adult orphanage volunteer caretaker who came with her own two children to help with Vida Joven orphanage for a week at camp:

"I thank you for all you have done for the children. Your entire group from Genesis are very attentive, good, and beautiful people. It was an unforgettable week for my children. I feel very glad to have shared my time with the children of Vida Joven. Thank you." Alicia Torres Campos

Rancho Genesis Needs and Wishes

Day-to-Day:

- Paper products: plates, plastic utensils, cups, napkins, toilet paper, hand towels, 6 ft. table cloths, etc.
- Cleaning supplies: hand, laundry and dish soap, disinfectants, bleach, mops, cleaning sponges, gloves, brooms, dust pans, dish cloths and towels, etc.
- First Aid materials: Tylenol, band-aids, bandages, antibiotic ointments and cream, peroxide, pedia-light, Gatorade powder, Benadryl, etc.
- Home Depot, Costco, Staples, Office Depot, or other similar gift cards.
- Recreational items: hula-hoops, balls, jump ropes, tabletop games, boogie boards, puzzles, beach toys, etc.
- Extra long metal marshmallow skewers or hotdog sticks (50)
- Arts and Science items: crayons, glue, paper, scissors, microscopes, finger-paints, etc.
- Polaroid cameras and film for "instant" pictures to give to the children.

Dollar Amounts:

- \$59.00 sends a child to camp for a week.
- \$35.00 buys propane or firewood for a week.
- \$90.00 builds a bunk bed.

Vehicles:

- Vans, trucks, and cars in good running condition.
- Importation fees of \$500 for a car, \$800 for a truck, and \$1,000 for a van.

Specific Prayer Requests:

- That the orphanage children leave Rancho Genesis with wonderful memories, higher self-esteem, a sense of positive self-worth, and even more hope for the future.
- That the orphanage children know God is with them everyday and that He is the perfect father that loves them unconditionally.
- Permanent versatile land for Rancho Genesis consisting of 10-20 acres [or more], a clear title, an existing well, ample water and power, located in a convenient coastal area between Cantamar and Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico.
- That full-time volunteers may adjust to the differences in living conditions, may concentrate on serving the Lord, and may fully embrace daily challenges in Mexico.

Please use the attached envelope to mail your gift.

Make checks payable to Genesis Expeditions, Inc.

Thank you very much! Muchas Gracias!



***"More Than Memories,
Changing Lives"sm***

Since our programs require a variety of materials for life skill, recreational, and other educational learning activities for the children (as well as feeding, housing, and caring for them at Rancho Genesis) we would appreciate your help with the needs listed here.



Genesis Expeditions, Inc.
P.O. Box 6458
Chula Vista, California 91909

www.GenesisDiez.org

STAMP

Learning Experiences for Children in Orphanagessm