

GENESIS™

Learning Experiences for Children in Orphanages



Summer Issue, 06

Genesis International Orphanage Foundation GIOF

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***“...care for orphans and
widows in their distress...”***

James 1:27

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So much is happening ...

- The spring groups brought 276 Amigos who served along side Genesis pouring love into the lives of over 300 Niños.
- Our first summer weeklong group of 17 from Chicago area Grace Baptist Church arrived June 25th and were joined by about 25 niños age 3-7 from Grace Children's Home.
- The summer program theme is "You are Special" from the Max Lucado book and runs thru August 17th.
- Since we are running only one camp this year, we sadly had to disappoint some orphanages who wanted to return to Rancho Genesis this summer. So in addition to our weekly camps, Genesis will also be assisting in running one day golf clinics at Bajamar Golf Course for those who cannot come for a week.
- Pastor Marcos of Aqua Viva and his church made the decision to voluntarily pull their rehab operating license until the building of the 'orphanage' for the children of Aqua Viva can be completed. We are in need of skilled labors to finish the project and anticipate another months' worth of work. [Call Greg at 619-997-7890] The license will then be reactivated. The facility still houses Pastor Marcos, his family, the ladies and children he is hosting...and Rancho Genesis!
- Gaby and Greg have met with over 30 individuals at the state and/or federal level bringing awareness of Genesis Diez, A.C. and requesting program funding.
- Genesis Diez, A.C. is looking into building a house annually to help raise funds for their programs.



The Lord brings a Oaxacan family into our lives and hearts...

During the Spring prayer and food distribution, we met a wonderful family who was led to Christ by our cook and prayer warrior, Evajalina. When asked for their prayer requests, the father, Frederico began to share a story of a woman he knew from the fields. A story that none of the amigos were prepared to hear. A story with facts which are hard to comprehend. The woman Bonifacia, a widow of 2 years, who came here like so many other Oaxaqueñas for a better life, was very desperate because two of her four children were very ill and she no longer knew how to care for them. This mother was prepared to abandon or take the lives of her two ill children. Frederico, his wife and some of the Genesis staff went to Bonifacia's home where she and her children Margarita (14), Alejandra (10), Maria (7) and Lucas (2), live in a 10'x 10' block room. There are no chairs, tables, or even a bed. The family shares a very undesirable bathroom located at least 80 feet from their quarters with approximately 30 other residents from other such apartments. On the cold cement floor the two sick girls, Maria and Margarita, were found lying on pieces of cardboard. Neither of the girls could walk or speak. Their bodies were weak, rigid, jerking involuntarily and extremely malnourished.

During the events of this evening, the group of amigos gathered around a campfire at Rancho Genesis Sur. Together they sat, trying to find words to express what they were thinking and feeling. It is hard to understand how a mother becomes so desperate that she no longer wants her own children. While most of the Genesis team was with Bonifacia, this group of young adults prayed with great passion, asking God to protect and care for these little girls.

The girls were taken to the hospital that night and stayed 18 days. After additional lab tests, as well as piecing together facts their diagnosis is still undetermined. Six months prior these same girls were healthy and could run, walk, jump, and talk like other children their age. They had visited Oaxaca by themselves and returned ill. We can only guess that the girls were infected with encephalitis or were severely abused while they were gone causing their bodies to shut down. Margarita is walking again slow and unsteady but with great pride, getting herself around and to the toilet. She tries to speak although only unrecognizable sounds come. Maria, much weaker, has full body tremors and cannot walk or talk and often has little strength to hold her head up. However she shows much life in her eyes, is alert, smiles and laughs out loud. Both seem to understand what is being said and try to do what they are told during physical therapy. Alejandra who is very intelligent and speaks Spanish in addition to her native tongue, plays a significant role in helping to care for her siblings. She makes sure her sisters have their medicine, helps to feed them, and walks to a nearby store to purchase gas or other needed items. She has more responsibilities than many adults.

Genesis has continued to play a role in helping this family and has used the local media to bring awareness of their plight along with the Oaxacan community in general. With the help of many local individuals and organizations, Genesis has been able to assist with medical bills, medicines, physical therapy, food, clothing, personal items, as well helping to educate Bonifacia in how to care for her children. Genesis continues to assist in finding out the cause of the illnesses, as well as helping this family have a better future. Please keep them in your prayers. Gracias.

Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat.

Mother Teresa

By Amanda DeVries, Volunteer



The Geodesic Dome project...

The good news is the domes are dismantled and ready to transport into Mexico. The bad news is that it took two months to process and receive the necessary paperwork and permits from Mexico City so that they can be brought into Mexico. Between the bureaucracy and someone in the Mexico City department deciding to send the paperwork by Mexico postal service [five weeks from Mexico City to Ensenada, Baja California] instead of by bus which is the most reliable system of transporting mail within Mexico. After finally receiving the paperwork, we proceeded to Tijuana to set up the actual transport and were informed that there was an additional permit necessary for the plywood [they didn't notice this the first time we met]. So that set of paperwork had to be processed again from Mexico City—this time sent by bus and has just arrived—thank goodness! We hope the transport takes place in early July. Please pray that day will be successful and all goes smoothly. The dismantled domes will be stored on a lot next to the Aqua Viva land until Genesis Diez, A.C. has a permanent site for them to be rebuilt on.

By Patti Amstutz, Volunteer

A Note from Patti ...

Hola to all from Ensenada. We feel your love, support and prayers for us. We are pleased as punch with our rental house and the conveniences of living in town. We now have all our belongings here as we emptied our personal storage unit after 3 years. In hind-sight, a waste of money as we obviously did not “need” most of it. Since we usually learn from mistakes...we keep making them. ☺ The house we are having built is coming along. The land for a permanent Rancho Genesis site is not...however we have faith in the Lord's timing. The wonderful news is that we can continue the work of Genesis from other sites and affect the lives of many children and adults from both sides of the border. We are pretty much out of storage space for large donations for our permanent site, but the Lord knows this too. Being at Aqua Viva again this year is without a doubt where we are supposed to be. The ministry there is growing due to the alliance they, Genesis and the Lord have together.

The land in Santa Rosa we shared about in our last newsletter is still available, but nothing is happening with our offer. We are now suspicious that the landowners may not be aware their attorney put it up for sale. After offering full price for the land, he is not proceeding with the first step he said it would take to get the process started. We are searching for the landowners ourselves because he will not give us their contact no. in the states. From what we have learned they are in San Diego County. We are searching for a Barbara Howard, who has a daughter Traci Alison Howard, who has a son Benjamin de Israel Howard. Benjamin may be under a conservatorship and is the legal owner of the land. We've called the 'B' and 'T' Howards listed in the San Diego phone book. If any of you have avenues to locate this family, please let us know as we would love to talk with them. If this is truly the land meant for Genesis Diez, A.C., the Lord will make it happen. As He tells us, “when you have no clear guidance, then go forward quietly along the path of duty I have set before you”. Until another avenue opens, we will continue to search for the Howards and other possibilities of land. Recently we learned of the possibility of governmental land being donated to Genesis Diez, A.C. off the toll road between LaMision and Ensenada. Orphanage Director friends are calling us with other land leads. We will look, listen and wait.

“The Bible is full of stories of people who ventured out in faith, giving God an opportunity to do what He intended to do, simply by making themselves available to Him.” We should do the same today. We do not want to get ahead of the Lord. If God wanted us to have the Santa Rosa land right now, he would have already made it available. “If God's in it, it's going to go His way. It's going to go smoothly, and we are not going to have to make compromises.”

[Excerpts from God Calling and Chuck Smith's, Calvary Chapel Distinctives—and our beliefs]

Thank you all so much for your prayers and support.

Help...

Due to unexpected circumstances in their church situations, two repeat groups of amigos who were booked to come this summer had to cancel. It was late enough we were not able to fill those slots. We still want to invite orphanages to attend those two weeks and are asking for your help. Please sponsor a niño to come for a summer camp week with the Genesis Team.

Only \$59.00 will bring a niño to a weeklong camp!

This will provide activities, crafts, off site adventures, and all meals for them and the Aqua Viva family for the week.

iiiMUCHAS MUCHAS GRACIAS!!!

Make your donation for one or more niños to attend summer camp payable to GIOF.



God will always give what is right to his people who cry to him night and day, and he will not be slow to answer them.

Luke 18:7



Things to know...

Get your Mexican Auto Insurance Online: You can get your insurance prior to crossing the border. Visit www.Instant-Mex-Auto-Insur.com or call 619-428-4714, or 800-345-4701 and speak directly with someone at Instant Mexico Auto Insurance Services, 223 Via de San Ysidro, San Ysidro, CA. Please let them know you were referred by Genesis.

By December 31, 2007: Please note that for U.S. citizens, a U.S. passport will be required January 1, 2008 for land travel across our borders. They are anticipating a three month or more process to obtain a passport. This requirement is still being debated due to economic impact for Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. To stay current, check out www.travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html.

By December 31, 2006: The deadline date of January 1, 2007 for a U.S. passport applies to air and sea travel.

To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world...

This past Spring 276 amigos served alongside Genesis, pouring love into the lives of over 300 niños. Most of the groups worked with the niños from the community of El Pipila. Many of the parents of these children are migrant workers, who work daily in nearby fields earning an income that often cannot support their family with even the basic needs. Their homes are simple. It is a humbling experience to be invited into a 10' x 12' space, that is a home to a family of 5 or more. Although their homes are lacking many things that we have come to take for granted, including running water, these little niños do not lack beautiful smiles! I am always overwhelmed by hugs, laughs, and these precious faces that greet me when I arrive at their homes to pick them up for day camp!

During our camps the amigos and niños participated in crafts, sports, and games programmed around the theme of 'Friendship'. Some weeks we also had the opportunity to take the niños on a day trip to a beautiful children's park owned by Jersey Milk. Some of the amigo groups also reached out to the El Pipila community with medical exams, food & prayer, personal care packages, blankets and clothing. Over the Spring Season, as we worked consistently with this community showing God's love, we were able to build and strengthen relationships with the individual niños and their families.

One group of 70+ amigos from Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church had the opportunity to work with the niños from a school in El Zorillo. Over a four day period we ran a Vacation Bible School for 80 - 100 niños. This was Genesis' first opportunity to reach out to this community. When working with new groups of children there are always a few challenges. However it was exciting and rewarding as each day relationships, trust, and respect grew. We were also able to reach out to 32 families from this community with a food and prayer program. Walking into the homes and meeting parents allowed for a greater understanding of the kids we were working with.

Sixty-eight niños from Lily of the Valley Orphanage in Tijuana, along with our amigos from Bethany Church Long Beach also visited Rancho Genesis Sur this Spring. This was the second year this orphanage was able to join these amigos, it is exciting to watch faces light up as they recognize their amigos from the previous year! With over 120 people, the week was filled with many special moments and activities including: arts & crafts, games, campfires, shopping at La Bufadora, and a Piñata Fiesta.

Each of our groups who came to Rancho Genesis also participated in construction projects. Our main project this Spring was working on the construction of an orphanage. This building will house the children of the women from Aqua Viva Rehabilitation Center, as well as children from the community. It is very encouraging to watch groups come in and with great love, pour time and energy into this project.

By Amanda DeVries, Volunteer

Quotes:

Every week this last spring was different and every week was also amazing. The quotes below capture some of the amigos' experiences, challenges, and memories from their trips.

-The smiles of the children's faces were priceless. It's great to see you can make a difference.

Christ Lutheran Church, CA 2006

- For me my favorite memory was spending time with the children. I loved taking the children home and seeing their homes and families.

Melba Friends Church, ID 2006

- This mission trip was such an amazing experience. I had the best time doing construction and getting closer to my family group. Playing with the niños everyday was awesome. Everything was such an eye-opening experience. Food and prayer really made me think about how fortunate I am and how much I have to be thankful for.

PLCPC Sr. high, CA 2006

- It is hard to explain my favorite memories, it is almost impossible to do so for this trip was like a blur of great memories mixed together. The love and the laughter that was shared on this trip will never be forgotten...although there were challenges, there always are, the chance to overcome these challenges faced on the worksite and with the dirt was well worth it. To know that you made a difference in someone's life makes it all worthwhile. So I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for making a difference in so many lives, including my own.

PLCPC Sr. high, CA 2006

- This trip was a great experience. It was awesome that even though we both spoke different languages we could still connect and understand each other. I really enjoyed talking to her, serving her, and rocking her to sleep at night.

Bethany Church Long Beach, CA 2006

- I was very excited to come and work and do as much as possible and little did I know the most work would be done in me by God. My view on life has completely changed and I feel more humbled than ever. To see the smiles on the kids faces is something I will always remember. I am definitely looking forward to returning in the future.

Calvary Baptist Bellflower Church, CA 2006

Pintando Una Cancion

Genesis Diez, A.C. in conjunction with the First Lady of Rosarito DIF and the Rosarito Cultural Center are inviting 25 orphanages [500 niños] to come for a day 'to Paint a Song'. There will be an interactive performance by the Rhythmic Latino group 'Arbol Azul', a painting contest, Musical Chairs, Sac Races, Games, an inflatable jumping machine and a picnic lunch. You can sponsor a child for just \$10.00. Send your donation for one or more niños payable to GIOF through July.



The Power of a Godly Touch

The touch of Jesus did not heal the man—it was His words. The loneliness however was treated by a touch from Jesus.

Not only the diseased, but also the poor, the orphan, the elderly the handicapped, the less educated and the addict are sometimes treated as "untouchable" and we stay away.

Haven't we known the power of a godly touch? Can't we offer the same? Many already do. Some are Physicians, some use your hands to pray and minister to others. If not touching personally, you are sending donations, building a house, painting, plumbing, roofing or cooking for those in need.

Jesus touched the untouchables of the world.

Will you do the same?

[Paraphrased from... Just Like Jesus, Max Lucado]



Rancho Genesis Needs and Wishes

Day-to-Day:

- Paper products: plates, plastic utensils, cups, napkins, **toilet paper**, hand towels, etc.
- Cleaning supplies: hand, laundry and dish soap, disinfectants, bleach, mops, cleaning sponges, gloves, brooms, dust pans, dish cloths and towels, 6 ft. table cloths, etc.
- Home Depot, Costco, Staples and/or Office Depot gift cards.
- Did we mention toilet paper and hand soap? ☺

Dollar Amounts:

- \$59.00 sends a child to camp for a week.
- \$35.00 buys propane or firewood for a week.
- \$10.00 sponsors a child for the big event in Rosarito on July 8th [received after July 8th will help recover costs]

Vehicles:

- All of our donated vehicles are dying a slow death or are already dead! We are currently using the personal vehicles of the Genesis Diez staff. We need funds to repair 5 vehicles [a bus, three vans and a F-350 truck]. The bus and one van need new transmissions[\$800ea]. Another van needs new shocks, struts, air-conditioning and electrical work [\$1500]. A third van needs new tires and extensive tune-up[\$450]. The F-350 needs electrical work, a new steering column, tires, shocks and 4x4 maintenance [\$2000].

Specific Prayer Requests:

- That the orphanage and community 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 and community children know God is with them everyday and that He is the perfect father that loves them unconditionally just as they are.
- That a permanent site for Rancho Genesis comes to Genesis Diez, A.C. where, when and how the Lord Wills.

Make checks payable to GIOF

Please use the attached envelope to mail your gift or if receiving this newsletter by E-mail send your donation to the GIOF address.

Thank you very much! Muchas Gracias!



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.



STAMP