

December 2009

Dear Friends,

Christmas is upon us again, and we are off with all the running around and the buying, wrapping and cooking. It's easy to forget the real reason for the season, I just pray that we all remember the true meaning of Christmas: the birth of our Savior. Our God decided to be present with us in the flesh and no longer in a structure like the tabernacle. So, do not be ashamed to wish somebody a Merry Christmas! Amen!

We have some bad news. We have been broken into for the fourth time. Now we have had to do what all others have done before us, put bars on windows and doors. It has caused an insecurity in both of our daughters, since their bedrooms were trashed and again Christina's laptop was stolen for the second time, plus many other stuff.

The bars have sure given the house a new look, but now we carry so many keys and, like our girls said, we feel like we are in jail. But one thing is for sure: we feel safer. We had to spend close to three thousand dollars, which is cheap compared to the USA. We also installed an alarm system. Sad to say, this money could have been spent on so many other things, like Christmas gifts for the children of the many neighborhoods we serve.

But beside all of that, God has blessed us so much this year. The women's shelter has moved to a new, much better location and is no longer 'the women's shelter', but the 'House of Grace'. There we have children and mothers with children. Currently we have 18 children ranging from 2 ½ weeks old to 12 years old. In the past 4 months 3 beautiful baby boys have been born into the house. Its fun to see the different personalities of all the kids, especially the younger ones. It's impossible not to love them all, which is what we do. We try and love them the way our heavenly father loves us. They all come from different situations. From mothers using drugs or in prostitution to fathers who just aren't able to care for them. One story for example: We have a young mother who is 21 years old. She has grown up in orphanages because her parents weren't able to care for her. At 20 she got pregnant, and with the father of the baby out of the picture, and no where to go she came to us. She arrived here when she was 5 months pregnant. Now she has a 3 month old little boy who she is learning how to raise. As a young mother she has a lot to learn.

But we are there to help. They all just need to be loved, to be accepted, and to have security. This is something the "House of Grace" provides. It's not just a house, it's a home, something most of these children have never really had. They all also have physical needs like clothing, food, school...etc. It's crazy to think we support so many people... Our heavenly father is pretty amazing, huh? He always provides.

So what I'm praying for is that God will lay it on your hearts to do something extra this Christmas! It's the time of the year where we search deep down into our soul and give thanks for all our blessings. Please consider sponsoring a child. We have 18 beautiful children here who would be blessed to have a sponsor. We are asking for \$25/month. These children will love to know that someone outside of their church, outside of their country cares about them and is praying for them. With your help there is hope and a future for these children. You will be helping us break the chains that enslave so many. Some of the 18 children are featured at the end of this letter, but please go to larocaministries.org for a complete list and sponsorship details.

In my last letter I spoke of our desire to bless the local police force with a dinner showing our gratitude for all they do. It has been quite an experience working closer with the police. The police commander and his four armed body guards with machine guns came to our church to see the facility, to see if it would be suitable for their dinner and he liked it. But sad to say, I have to say no because they wanted it for the evening and at those hours we house 80 men at the shelter. So, we drove to another site, and there again they followed me in their four big trucks, with all the police well armed really to enter the war zone. It was quite an experience. We at this time are planning to do a Christmas dinner for them, as the timing didn't work out at Thanksgiving. Keep praying for us, as we serve our local police.

May you and your family have a **Merry Christmas**, celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ! May His Peace be upon you and your family, Remember you are not just another face, but you are family and we know your name.

In His Passion,
Carlos and Rossy and rest of La Roca Team.



Violeta del Rosario Padilla Santa Cruz

Violeta is 11 years old and in the 5th grade. Before she arrived here she was in a different orphanage where her mother left her. We arranged for her to be moved here because her 17 year old sister who has been with us for 2 years wanted to be with her sister. Violeta likes kids and enjoys helping care for them. She also likes to help in the kitchen.



Carlos Daniel Barron Arandara

Daniel is 6 years old. He arrived here a month ago with his mother and 2 brothers. They came from the city Guanajuato. They left to get away from the father who is physically abusive. They came to Tijuana to stay with a family member but were unable to stay for an extended period. So they came to La Roca for help. Daniel enjoys playing with bicycles.



Mauricio Iaan Delgado

Mauricio is 17 days old. He is here with his mother. She came to the house when she was 3 months pregnant asking for help. She was alone and had no where to go.



Frida Palacios

Frida is 14 months old and arrived here 3 weeks ago with her mother. She is a very happy little girl. Her mother was using drugs but is no longer consumed by them. Frida loves to play with purses. She also likes music.



Salvador Palacios

Salvador is 3 years old and came here 3 weeks ago. He was in a different orphanage before and had nothing familiar or stable. Now he is with us and his older brother Brian. Salvador loves to play and has lots of energy. He is never not doing something.



Yeny Rodriguez

Yeny is 10 years old. Her parents use heroin and are unable to provide proper care for her. She has an older brother however; he isn't old enough for that responsibility. She will stay with us until her parents are able to provide stability physically, and emotionally. Yeny has Down's Syndrome, which means she need extra love and attention- Yeny likes to paint and dance.