



**He is Risen!**

Praises:

- “J” accepted the Lord as her Savior!
- Resurrection Sunday was beautiful!
- The kids are getting to just be kids for a little while at the center.
- Our team here and there is fabulous!
- Victoria graduates from Liberty University in 3 weeks.
- Praise the Lord! We have a car to use while in the States! Thank you!
- The Lord continues to guide us through tough and hard decisions.
- Jesus is faithful! He has given us hope and a purpose!

Prayer Requests:

- Next week, we travel to the States. Pray for the transition again. Pray for the team here. Pray we do what the Lord desires for us.
- We are adding another family in the center this week. Pray for our hearts as the waiting list is long but we only have so much staff and space at this moment.
- Wisdom and discernment as we walk through things we don’t know.
- Revival in La Tola. (sector of town we work in)
- We would seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.



Usually this would be Samantha’s corner but since she got such a big spotlight last month, I want to highlight some special people to us here. The picture above was Easter Sunday right after doing cascarones (my South Texas friends know these – confetti eggs). Most of the people are in our small group and all the people in the picture are serving here as missionaries (except one- he is a visitor). We are from all over the United States California to Pennsylvania, Mobile, AL

to Ohio. We are from all different denominations and backgrounds. We are from 5 years old to 79 years old. We all do different ministries from growing a foreign church, to discipling teachers, to youth or the poor. But here, we are family. We have the love of the Lord Jesus Christ and the passion to share Him as our common bond. These are the people that we walk through this crazy world of missions with. I am so thankful for them and many others here. We are all a team expanding the kingdom of God. May there be just one more in heaven with all of us!



Speaking of just one more that may know Him. Our dear “J” accepted Christ this month. I have known her since we moved to Ecuador. She has been so reluctant to the gospel and His word. But this month, she saw His love and her scales were removed. Pray she grows as a follower. Pray she teachers her baby girls about Him. We have moved her from the mountains to an apartment next to the foundation so she can complete her schooling and can receive help on a daily basis.

The sweetest thing about the work the Lord is doing, besides salvation and growing kids in Him, is just seeing the kids be kids. The center really has become a safe place to be a kid. Their lives outside the center are full of abuse, struggling to survive and lack of necessities. Most of the kids are going to school in the morning and then come to the center. They have lunch when they arrive and the afternoon is full of four or five rotations. The rotations are homework, Bible time, activities and games with the fifth being counseling about once a week for each student. There are 3-5 students in each rotation. If they need more time in a rotation (more help with homework), they do two rotations in that group. Some of the activities are cooking or art but I think their favorite is just playing. They love the duplo legos and the dress up clothes. Pictured below are those activities. Our teacher is the one in the blue dress. The third picture below is our 17 year old that has been abandoned by both parents. He is back in the center after a suspension. We were giving him his Christmas presents in April. He was so excited and said that was his only Christmas gifts that he received.



We now have 6 kids that are 5 and under at the center each day getting Bible, food and a little preschool. These 6 bring a new level of activity to the building. Pray these precious little souls will grow in Jesus and be protected from some of the harshness of this world.



One of my favorite songs lately is "The Blessing" by Cody Carnes. I always think of my three kids with this song but I often pray it over my extended kids. Some of the lyrics are "The Lord bless you and keep you. Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.... May His favor be upon you and a thousand generations and your family and your children and their children and their children."

May the Lord be upon these families for generations upon generations. I want to meet some of these kids' great grand children in Heaven one day. I pray that it be so!

It has only been three weeks since our last newsletter. There is much to say but not in a newsletter, so we would love to share stories in person. We hope to see many of you in person while in the States from April 26<sup>th</sup> till June 16<sup>th</sup>. We will be visiting people in Mississippi, Alabama, North Carolina, Virginia and Michigan. Let us know if you have time to visit.

Many blessings,

Dan and Gina