



Hogar de Vida y Nutrición

San Andres, Guatemala

Web site: www.homesoflife.org

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Financial Donations Administered by Partnering Ministry:
Children of Promise International 6844 Loop Road, Centerville, OH 45459-2159

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

- ✝ for mature, Christian female staff.
- ✝ for additional Child Sponsorships (each child needs four sponsors).
- ✝ for success for each child in school.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Venancio Enrique arrived at Hogar de Vida in September 2008 just six fragile weeks old. He was tiny, undernourished and quite sickly. His mom who was unable to produce milk and too poor to buy baby formula brought her son to Hogar de Vida so he would have a chance at life.

Getting Venancio healthy and stabilized was no easy task. Within the first days of almost constant crying, vomiting and diarrhea, staff Oralia and Lita, were exhausted and at wits end as to what to do for Venancio. Medical missionary friends offered to care for Venancio to give the staff a break and to hopefully find out what was causing some of his health issues. After a number of trial and errors, a formula was finally found that Venancio's delicate system could tolerate. He was also treated for an intestinal infection and seemed to be stabilizing and much calmer.

The missionaries return Venancio to Hogar de Vida. All was fine for a few days when suddenly Venancio spiked a fever and was notably seriously ill. Oralia took Venancio to the hospital two hours away where he was quickly admitted. In ICU, with IV's inserted, Venancio fought for life while Oralia kept a 24 hour vigil at his bedside. With prayer and the doctor's care, Venancio improved and was able to return home.

Again the missionary friends stepped up and offered to care for Venancio until he was sleeping and eating better. Thank the Lord for dedicated friends!

Once back at Hogar de Vida, although still struggling with an intestinal infection and very raw nalgas (bottom) Venancio continued to gain strength and weight and a smiling disposition.

Saved twice from near death, there is no doubt God has his hand on Venancio and has great plans for his life. His grandma comes down from the mountain to visit every other week and out rightly praises Jesus Christ for saving her grandson.

This little miracle needs 3 more sponsors to be fully sponsored. Email info@homesoflife.org to become one of Venancio's sponsors.



SCHOOL REPORT CARD(S)!



The 2009 school year is under way with twenty five of the thirty one children attending school. That makes for a whole heap of class schedules, uniforms, shoes, backpacks, notebooks and glue sticks!

The children take their education seriously and spend time each day after school working on their homework and studies. Just ask Leslie, who spends two hours each afternoon diligently working on her home work. But don't interrupt her; she won't give you the time of day until her homework is completed to perfection. Bartolo sprawled out on his bedroom floor one afternoon to finish his homework because it was the only place he found that was quiet. They are proud of their school accomplishments and have every right to be so. Keep up the great work kids!

Each year before the school year begins Oralia, Sebastian and Amilcar take careful consideration of the learning style and individual educational needs of each of the children before enrolling them in school. It is the leadership's desire for each child to be in a school environment that will enhance the child's ability to reach their fullest educational potential. When a private school offered smaller class size and Santos would benefit from more individual attention, he was enrolled in a private school. When the public high school offered more highly qualified instructors than the private high school, Lucy, Juana and Lorena began attending the public school. When Mingo graduated from high school and wanted to study for a degree at the university Hogar de Vida continued to help him with his educational expenses.

School expenses for all twenty five children, which include uniforms, shoes, all school supplies and tuition for the private schools is about \$8,000 to \$9,000 for the year. You can give the gift of knowledge to the kids of Hogar de Vida and the future generation of Guatemala by giving towards their educational expenses.

Please email info@homesoflife.org for information on how to give.

A FAIRY TALE CHRISTMAS

Barbi, from Hogar de Vida Costa Rica shares about her Christmas:

This past Christmas was surely one of my most joyfully unforgettable Christmases I have ever experienced. I had opportunity to spend three weeks in Guatemala with the other half of our Hogar de Vida family. My time was beyond words wonderful. The home directors, Oralia and Sebastian and I spent my first day in Guatemala City finishing up all the Christmas shopping for the 35 kids and staff. The three of us had loads of fun and laughs trying to find just the right gift for each child according to his/her personal Christmas request. At day's end we all flopped on our beds, too exhausted to move.

After arriving at Hogar de Vida the next day, it was then time to match the kids' Christmas lists with the gifts. Megan, Jules and Stephen, who were also spending Christmas with us, had brought their suitcases packed to capacity with Christmas gifts also. The task of making sure everyone would be equally blessed was no easy endeavor but Oralia with all of her motherly love and wisdom quickly evaluated each child's gifts and filled in where necessary. Each child received one new outfit of clothing, one toy or an equivalent type of gift and one stocking stuffer making this Christmas quite an extravagant one for everyone.

The kids filled the "eternal" wait until Christmas by designing individual cards and letters for each of their sponsors. With glitter abounding and glue dripping when they were finished, each child helped to hang their brilliant work of art out to dry before sending it off to their sponsor. The kids are always so eager to make cards and drawings for each of their sponsors. They understand the importance of having someone special who prays for them and gives towards their care. They put much time and love into their creations. I love watching them pour out their love.

When Christmas Eve finally did arrive it felt as if it was something out of a fairy tale. With the tree piled high with gifts, the kids all in their best outfits, and the air so intense with excitement that it was almost tickly,

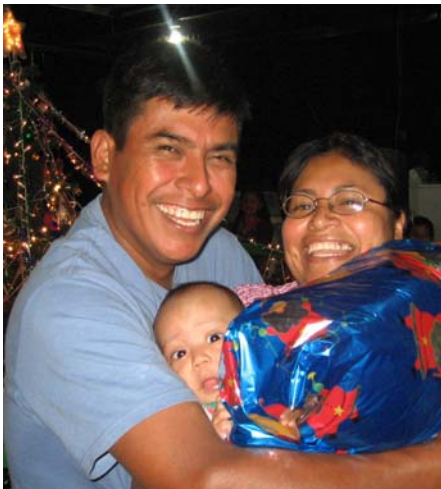
I knew I was about to experience Christmas unlike any I had experienced before. The Christmas gift tradition is for the youngest to pick a gift and after delivering it with a hug, the receiver of the gift then chooses the next gift and gives it with a hug. It was so fun to watch the pre teen boys practically dying a slow death, at the thought of having to touch a GIRL, let alone give her a hug. Aside from a few moments of cootie hugs, the entire celebration of wide smiles, giggles and tears of joy was a precious evening I will not soon forget. Sebastian

was not at all opposed to giving his favorite girl, Oralia, a Christmas hug!

In those rare moments when I thought about relaxing, it was never very long before the first of many kids found their way into my room and joined me on my bed. Laughter and giggles were the agenda of my "rest times". As the kids continued to filter in, we just squeezed over to make room for one more on my bed. I never got much rest, but I most certainly enjoyed these simple memory making times with the kids.

Even when I was dead tired, by request of the kids, I would bring out beads, popsicle sticks or coloring books and we would spend countless hours creating "beauteous" treasures. The kids never cared what we did when we were together only that we spent time together.

I believe what makes this family so special is their love for each other and their genuine joy for life in many simple ways. I am so grateful to be part of this family. They have given me much more than I could ever give to them in return. Thank you Guatemala Hogar de Vida family!



DAY TO DAY

We had a great school vacation from November through January. Although we felt vacation was much too short as usual, it was good to get back into routine when school started up again in January.

These past several months we have enjoyed regular visits from Don and Lori Allison and their kids. They have been pitching in with chores around the home, lending a hand to the staff, helping us learn how to use the computer and just having fun playing with all of us. We have enjoyed their friendship and will miss them when they leave.

Jules, Megan and Stephen came from the United States to spend ten days with us over Christmas. It was fun to have them here to play with us. Barbi also came from Costa Rica for three weeks so we got to go out in the street for ice cream and do lots of activities.



The highlight of our vacation time was our paseo to the beach. Our total family, except the two tiny babies, piled in the bus and headed to some fun in the sun. Sun, sand and smiles were the order of the day.

Sebastian and Mingo went to visit Rosa in the aldea where she lives with her aunt. What a joy to see how great she is thriving in her new home. Just look at that big smile

In February, Tim came from Costa Rica to spend time with us. We made him tell us all the details of his testimony. What an inspiration for us to obey and follow God.

A number of us teens persevered through a lengthy Discipleship course at church, and received a certificate for our hard work. Now we need to put into practice and live out what we learned in class.

Thanks so much for being at part of our lives and praying for us.



PRAISING THE LORD



Everyone is in good health, doing well in school and content.



Venancio's health is stabilized and he is growing stronger.



For Sebastian and Oralia's Godly wisdom and leadership in their position of directors and house parents.

Thanks for praying and supporting us at Hogar de Vida y Nutrición.

Blessing to all of you from all of us!