

Hogar de Vida y Nutrición

San Andres, Guatemala



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Web site: www.homesoflife.org

Email: info@homesoflife.org

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Children of Promise International 6844 Loop Road, Centerville, OH 45459-2159

Sebastian and Oralia, Directors Hogar de Vida y Nutricion

As a young girl, Oralia didn't have a father that gave her hugs, or know the love and care of a mother, who would talk to her about the road of life and give her direction. She had parents, but she was left on her own. At age 7, she went to work for a woman caring for her four little kids. This woman didn't interact much with Oralia or give her any direction, but she did take her to church, where Oralia heard about Jesus, but didn't internalize anything. She went to church for something to do, but really didn't like it and thought it was boring. Even though she didn't want to learn anything, God's word did not return void. A seed was planted in her life.

At 14, she met her future husband. She and Sebastian were soon married, and Oralia quit going to church. At 16, she gave birth to her first son who became very sick at 2 months. Oralia had no mother to turn to and her in-laws didn't like her. She'd never had a chance to just be a child or a teenager. Inevitably, the pain from her childhood started to come out. She was angry, sad, and alone. She began to remember the things she had been taught in church. She remembered hearing that God cared for her, but didn't feel or see God anywhere.

In her early 20's, Oralia was hired by the missionary family who lived at Hogar de Vida, doing work for the wife. She saw something different in this woman's life and wondered if she could be like her. She decided to learn more about the living God who loves all people and makes all things possible. She began to search for Him in prayer with a deep hunger, because she realized that the missionary wife had what she wanted and needed: the love of Christ. She began to go to church again and soon asked Christ to be the Lord of her life. This decision began the healing of her heart

that would take years, but eventually she was able to forgive her parents and others that had hurt her.

Sebastian was born into a very poor family. Like Oralia, his parents didn't provide him much direction, nor did they encourage him to go to school, so by the age 11 he quit. His father treated him as an adult and expected him to work accordingly. He and his younger brother worked long hard days to help provide for the family. At 16, he married Oralia. He continued to work wherever he could and was gone from home a lot. The jobs he found were difficult and unpleasant, so when the missionary family offered him a temporary job at Hogar de Vida, he decided to take it. The job eventually became a permanent full time position. Sebastian, Oralia and their kids moved on site to help with the care of the children. Meanwhile, Sebastian was learning about the love of Jesus and asked Him into his life as his Lord and Savior.



Sebastian and Oralia's responsibilities at Hogar de Vida continued to grow and in 2008,

they became the Directors of the home. Because of their past, and the healing that God brought into their lives, they are able to minister to children of similar backgrounds. They have a unique understanding of what the children are going through, and God has taught them through various people and circumstances to be good and loving parents. They are able to comfort the children and lead them through the process of forgiving. Now they have 30 kids they care for; kids who are loved and nurtured and are being brought up to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us In all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." II Corinthians 1:3-4



Sadness into Joy



Hermerlinda arrived at Hogar de Vida y Nutricion at the beginning of July 2011. She is 2-1/2 years old. Her mom brought her to the home because she was very malnourished. She knew her daughter needed help or she would die. When Hermerlinda first arrived, she was very sad and afraid to be away from her mother in this new environment. She had little energy and slept a lot. Her eyes were sunken and had dark circles. There were open sores all over her body from poor hygiene and malnutrition. Her belly was swollen as if she had swallowed a cantaloupe. She rapidly put in her mouth any food that was placed before her or that she found lying around. The older kids took her under their wings and showed her “the ropes.” She was loved and nourished by the staff.

Two months later, Hermerlinda is a different little girl with little evidence that only a short time ago she was a very sick and sad child. Her wounds have healed, her body has filled out in proportion to her stomach, and her face is filled out and healthy. Most of all she is a happy, joyful little girl. She loves playing with the other girls and is quick to give even strangers a smile and a hug. Her smile is very engaging and contagious. We praise the Lord for the fullness of life in Hermerlinda and for the way God has healed her body and spirit. She is a blessing to everyone she meets!

“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor.” Isaiah 61:1-3



Having recently arrived at Hogar de Vida, Hermerlinda needs sponsors. For more information about sponsoring a child or sponsoring other aspects of the ministry, see [the Sponsorship Program](#) description enclosed.