



Feb- May 2023

Isaiah 55:11

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

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Hello Friends!

We hope this letter finds you well. Forgive my procrastination in sending out this update. Time gets away from me as each day flies by. Anyone who has been to El Paso or Juarez knows that you can't get anywhere quickly. There are days after being in my truck all day in traffic or border lines I just want to get out and stand up! I am grateful to be able to serve the children at the home as well as serving the wonderful pastors and their helpers.

We have had a busy beginning of the year starting with Valentine's Day celebrations. Howard and I brought the party to the children! Individual pizzas, macaroni and cheese and frosted brownies for lunch. Of course Valentine's Day would not be complete without heart shaped boxes of chocolate for all.

Along with the usual repairs being made to the home, we had some very strong winds which peeled back a few pieces of our metal roofing and also caught some of the siding on the dorms. The kids spent one afternoon cleaning up debris from the grounds. They are great workers!

Our wonderful friends from Dallas, Marion and Judy Warren brought us another load of food and other goodies. We received a pallet of cereal, taco dinner packets, packages of dry soup mix, lots of cookies, paper goods, cleaning supplies and a large amount of clothing and shoes. The children's home pantry was stocked and with the rest of the food we were able to bless 3 churches and 4 children's programs. The clothing that was brought along with another large donation of clothing from a family in New Mexico was sorted and distributed to several churches to be given away during Children's Day celebrations. We were also able to give clothing and kitchen items to a group of Venezuelan migrants that have been attending Brother German's church and were saved there. Thankful that even with all the issues going on with border crossings and the mass of people that congregate on both sides of the border, God is giving these national pastors the ability to minister to them and we have been given the items that make the pastor's job a little easier.

During the month of March the school at our home church (Monclova Christian Academy) held a food drive for missions month. I was able to give a presentation of the ministry during their chapel and we gave them a list of food items that we use at the home a lot to keep the collection simple. At the end of the month we were wonderfully surprised with a load of food that filled our entire truck and car! What a major blessing and savings for the home. So thankful for the school's heart for the children's home.

Kid's Day celebrations at the end of April were a lot of fun as well. I was able to attend and help out at Pastor Osvaldo's kids celebration. The leaders dressed up and played games with the kids. I got to help with food set up and delivery. The day ended with cake and goodie bags. Our celebration at the children's home started with playing outside kicking the soccer ball around, flying kites and then making homemade parachute men with grocery bags! A sweet lady from a church in Juarez brought the children pizza, ice cream and treat bags. We ended the day playing a new Simon game and a crazy super competitive game of UNO. Of course the mean adults made the kids get their homework done after all of that fun!

We will end the school year in July with our annual pool party, then the children will have a 3 week break. With the new school year we will be changing the way things are run at the home. The government is imposing more restrictions on homes and we are not getting any straight answers as to why. They have recently closed 2 smaller homes nearby. So after months of prayer and research on alternatives we have decided to not house the children overnight, but the option to do so is there if the need arises. This will allow us to continue operations without any government interference and also allow us to serve many more children. Our goal from the beginning has always been to keep the children safe, fed physically and spiritually and to make sure they have an education. Changing in this way will allow us to concentrate on the children's education and their spiritual life. We will be making sure that the children are in school (tuition paid, uniforms bought) and after school we will transport them to the home where they are safe, feed them, have a play time, homework time and a time for devotion/Bible study. The elementary school principal is helping to identify the children who need the most help. We are also working with a group of Tarahumara Indian parents to make sure their children are enrolled in school. Miguel and Mireya have developed a wonderful relationship with and have the trust of these parents. They usually don't send their children to school as the parents mostly don't speak Spanish. Our long term goal is to start a Christian school on grade at a time, that was Miss Joy's desire all those years ago! We are looking forward to being able to start the new year with at least 25-30 children. Please be in prayer with us as we make these adjustments.

We thank all of you for all of the prayer support, financial support, item donations and many words of encouragement. The texts and emails mean so much.

Howard & Rosie

**** Prayer Requests:** Newer large van for transporting children
Newer mini van for the small trips for the home
Border crossing/travel safety

