

THE

GOOD NEWS



CASA mission report



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CHRISTMAS [NAVIDAD] 2018

NAMES ADDED

TO THE BOOK OF LIFE



Over the course of days, weeks, months, and years, the children at Casa are immersed in an environment where we do our utmost to ensure that every form of communication and action reflects the love and word of our Lord. Over the course of a typical day, the children participate in daily bible studies and devotionals, interspersed with their school activities, chores, meals and play.

If you visit us, you will not see or hear a television aimlessly blaring the images and rhetoric that are commonplace in secular life, and so often offensive to our Lord's will for us. Instead, we make every effort to filter out any influence that is contrary to our Lord's instruction and His desire for us live in accordance with His will. The collective influences of a Christian living environment, over time, bear the type of fruit that we all seek to achieve: a lasting discipleship relationship with Jesus Christ, in our lives and the lives of our children.

Over the last few weeks, we have been blessed to witness and participate in the baptism of nine children who have declared the great truth that Jesus is the Son of God and have accepted Him as their Lord and Savior. Praising God, the new disciples of Christ from left to right are: Roberto, Erika, Arcelia, Daniela, Paulina, Maria Luisa, Emma, Rodrigo, Santiago. This must put a big smile on your face, as it does ours!

CELEBRATING AND PRACTICING PATRIOTISM

The birthright of every child is to celebrate the heroes of their country and the beautiful attributes of their culture and history. On November 20th, Mexico celebrates the grassroots victory that was headed by such leaders as Poncho Villa over a corrupt government. Taking part in our local celebration of this great victory, Casa was well represented in the parade that took place on main street Anahuac. The children attending "Jose Vasconcelos Elementary School" at Casa (which has been named after Mexico's Secretary of Education) marched in their green uniform tops with navy blue skirts. As our middle school children marched, they displayed, for the first time, the banner announcing our recently acquired name: Abraham Lincoln Middle School. They marched in their handsome blue uniforms with red accent. Our children were notably the most orderly and well-mannered of all the school age children participating in the celebrated event, making us very proud to call them ours.

We continue to hold classes year-round at Casa, and as a result, we are seeing our children make great strides in their learning. Due to their previous circumstances, many of our children are working at catching up to the grade level appropriate for their age, and we see these children making significant progress. Tutoring assistance is in play every evening to help the children with their schoolwork. A Christmas break is scheduled starting December 19 thru January 4th with classes commencing Monday January 7th.



A SLICE OF DISNEY IN OUR OWN BACK YARD



All of us at Casa are the grateful recipients of an incredible ensemble of playground equipment that was purchased by the Harvest Church in Germantown, TN. The new playground is a constant source of joy and fun for all the children. They marvel over it each time they are free to play outside. It seems like we have a slice of Disney in our own back yard.

We experience the blessing of this wonderful gift each day while watching the children busily climbing, running, jumping and chasing each other with smiles stretching from ear to ear and hearts full of joy. While watching the children play, I often find myself reflecting on the various circumstances leading to the children being brought to Casa in the first place. These thoughts often lead me to the deepest gratitude to the Lord for the brethren at Harvest Church for making such an incredible blessing possible.

Among the many things we do with our children to facilitate recovery from the tragic beginnings that many have experienced is play. Play is among the vitally important activities needed for our children to recapture their childhood and learn very important socialization skills.

I cannot find words enough to fully express the depth of my appreciation of Harvest Church for such a wonderful blessing. The crew of nine who flew into Chihuahua to assemble the equipment did a stellar job, working long, arduous hours each day, making sure the assembly was completed within three days. I am struck by the name Harvest Church, as they are truly rendering a timeless harvest of joy, peace and happiness among our children. We are deeply grateful to all the members of Harvest Church for sharing their love in such a wonderful way.

New Vans for Casa

For some time now, the fleet of vans at Casa have shown serious signs of wear and tear, as evidenced by our ever-increasing maintenance costs and the general appearance of our vans. This holds especially true for the two vans that we use throughout the year to transport groups of missionaries and to haul supplies between El Paso and Casa. Our worst nightmare would be to break down somewhere in Mexico with a van full of visitors. Thankfully, this has never happened, however, we have broken down while hauling supplies.

Because our lack of confidence in the trustworthiness of the vans, we have, for some time, been setting aside funds to purchase another van. With the help of a “matching fund” initiative and the generosity of so many Christian brethren and Church leaders, our goal was met this month! We recently received a gift from the West Houston Church of Christ that put us over the top. In addition to the generous support of Christian brethren, major support was also received by the Southwest Church of Christ and the Casa de la Esperanza Foundation.

Shortly after acquiring sufficient funds to purchase the first of the two vans which needed to be replaced, a second van was gifted to Casa in the most unexpected way.

A Christian brother, and owner the largest pawn shop in America (his humble spirit desires that we not make mention of his name), has been growing the involvement of his company in the support of the Casa ministry. This brother views his company as simply a means to a greater end. His purpose is to glorify the Lord God by supporting multiple ministries throughout the world. Casa is blessed to be one of them.

We were told that a member of his staff would be looking around the Dallas/Fort Worth area to find a van for Casa. Several months passed in the meantime. Then one day I received a call that a dark green passenger van had been located — was that color acceptable? My immediate reply was absolutely! Not a problem with any color, actually. Again, some time passed without word.

Earlier this month I arrived at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport to attend a training session on some equipment designed to manufacture block using soil, which is a method that is most suitable in third world countries. The purpose of the trip was also to assess the applicability of this equipment for use at Casa.

Upon arriving at the airport, I was met by the owner of the company and his staff person, who immediately told me that the deal on the green van fell through. My response was “not to worry, these things are in the hands of God and He will provide in good time”. As I turned to greet the owner of the company who was standing nearby, I was handed the keys to a brand-new passenger van sitting curbside! I was immediately overwhelmed with excitement, a deep sense of gratitude and a great deal of surprise.

Casa now has safe and reliable transportation for years to come to transport visitors and children and haul supplies wherever and whenever necessary.

A deep abiding thanks to the donor of this amazing gift that will bless the work at Casa for many, many years to come.



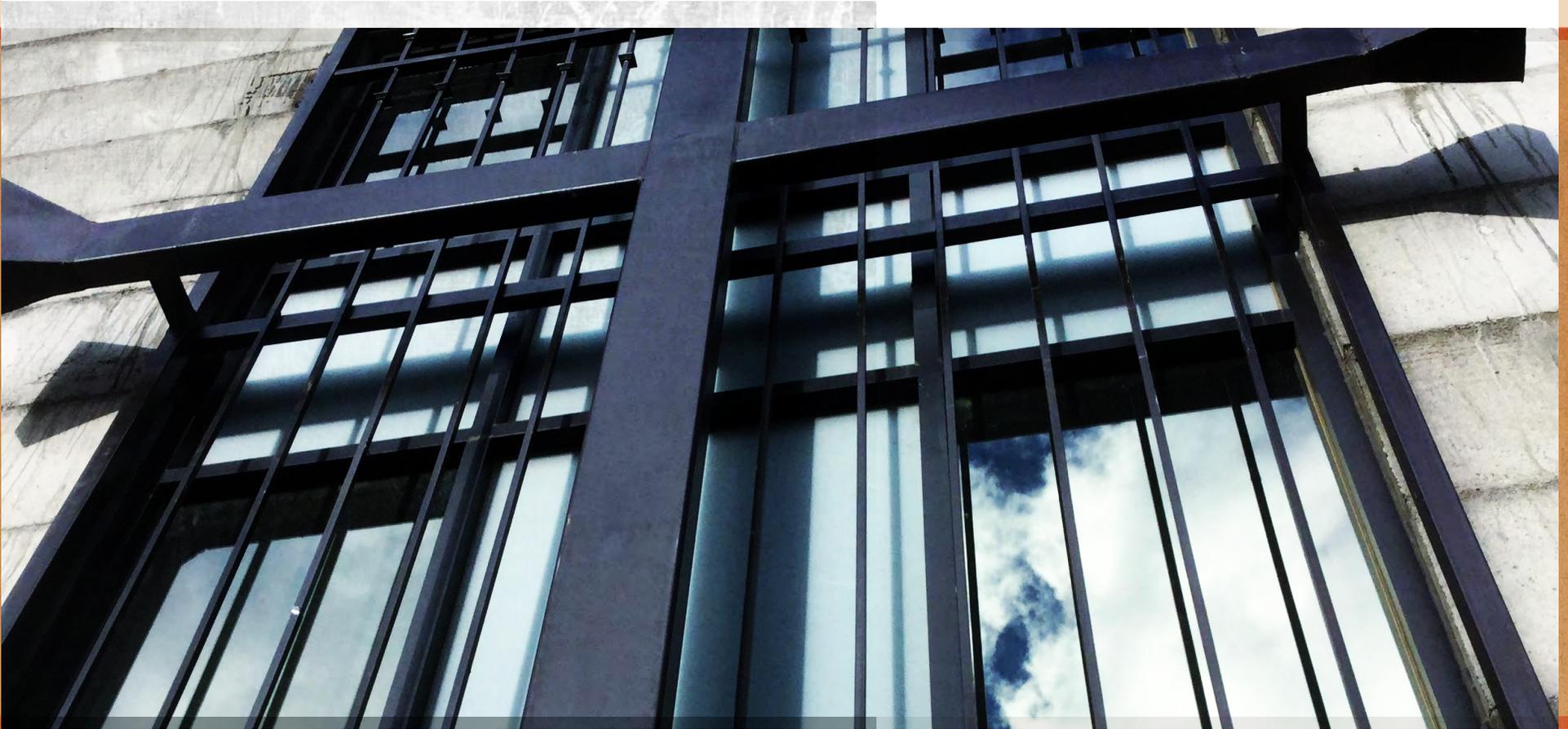
Reconstruction Continues

Casa's east wing, commonly referred to as the "Old Home Depot" (now that we have moved all the supplies and tools to the "New Home Depot"), is completely gutted and floor plans for this area are nearing completion. A trench, cutting through a cement walkway and exposing the old clay tile sewer line, is completed and a new 6" PVC line is being installed. An insulated roof is also in place and windows along the walls of the cupola will soon be in place, weather proofing the entire wing.

The east wing will house three high school classrooms, an extension of the current library, an arts and crafts room, and a studio office where doctors, PA's, dentists and ophthalmologists can perform checkups on our children. It will also house two infirmaries where we can isolate children with infectious conditions until they are healed and ready to be reintegrated with the other children.



Progress on the Church/Community Center Building



- ■ ■ The ceiling lighting was recently completed throughout the entire first floor and worship area of the Church/Community Center building. The hot water heat registers are scheduled to be installed on the entire first floor over Christmas. Flooring for the stage and baptistry floor area has been purchased and will also be installed, followed by the installation of the baptistry. The next items to be addressed are the completion of the kitchen and bathrooms. Our prayer is that we will be able to hold our first worship by summer's end!

Welcome Our New Children

EMMA



EMMA CAROLINA



ERIKA



EVARDO



LUPITA



PANCHITA



ROBERTO



YADIRA



Contact Information

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Attention:

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Web Site:

ahouseofhope.com

Overseeing Congregation:

Southwest Church of Christ

Needs List

Thank you for generous donations that have been made by our supporters. If you are able to donate any larger items, please contact us as soon as possible so pick up or delivery can be arranged, as moving certain items through the border crossing process can be quite time consuming.

Ongoing needs include:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toothpaste
- Body Lotion
- Rice
- Sugar
- #10 Size Cans of Vegetables and Fruit
- Laundry Soap

If you would like to be part
of our Sponsor a Child program,
please direct your inquiries
to Gil at his email:
ahouseofhope@gmail.com,
or call him at (719) 252-9423.



Wanting to Visit Us?



If you plan to visit Casa, this is a friendly reminder that we operate on a first come first serve basis. If you are not certain of your exact arrival and departure date, we will schedule you on a tentative basis reserving your spot. As in previous years, we will provide assistance with border crossing and travel from El Paso to Casa and back again. Unless you plan on traveling to Casa on a chartered bus, we are using the Santa Teresa border crossing located on the far west end of El Paso avoiding travel through Juarez all together.

Hope to see you soon.

*For you are great and do marvelous deeds,
you alone are God.*

— Psalm 86:10