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SPRING 2008

¡Que Pasa!



Volume 7, Edition 1

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elsauzal.org

NOT Cheaper By the Dozen

It's not easy to get eighteen preschoolers to hold still for a photo! Here are all of our little ones, with their devoted caregivers- Joanna (back left), Marcelina (back right), and Carmen (back far right)

April has been a challenging month here at the El Sauzal Orphanage. First, Mexican Social Services (DIF) has brought twelve new children. Second, many of these new kids are in our packed nursery. Third, rising food costs are hitting everyone hard. Finally, donations are low this month, and we are not close to meeting our expenses.

Twelve new kids in one month

We are so grateful for our new children. They are a blessing. But we are struggling to find beds for all of them. And in this time of high food prices, purchasing formula and food for the kids is challenging.

Plenty of preschoolers

The nursery is overflowing with eighteen little ones. Three loving young women are caring for the kids- nanny Joanna, in her early twenties, Joanna's 15-year-old sister Carmen, and 15-year-old Orphanage kid Marcelina. (*Read about Carmen and her passion for children on page 6.*) Please pray for the little ones, and the

Continued on page 2

In This Issue

Not cheaper by the dozen	Page 1
"Are you poor?"	Page 2
Our fabulous futbol stars	Page 2
It doesn't get better than this	Page 4
A nursery baby shower	Page 5
Two for one gifts	Page 5
"I want to have my own orphanage"	Page 6
Battle of the Bands	Page 6

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NOT Cheaper

Continued from page 1

young women who are caring for them!

Why you're paying more at the grocery store

Have you noticed the jump in food prices lately? Food prices rose 4 percent in 2007, and will raise 4.5 percent this year. "Americans on average still spend a smaller portion of income on food than people in nearly any other country in the world... In 2006, Americans devoted about 7.2 percent of our budgets to food consumed at home, versus 24.5 percent in Mexico." (Gaudette) In Mexico, record corn prices have sent people to the streets in protest of tortilla inflation (Avila).

Not meeting our expenses

With the economy being so tough, it is not surprising that gifts to El Sauzal have been down. We do not have enough money for our expenses, like food. However, we have faith that *"..this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."* -Phil 4:19

Can you help? In our forty years, God has always provided through the help of you, our friends. You can use the enclosed envelope and donation slip or donate online at elsauzal.org/Give. Muchas gracias, amigos, for your help and prayers.

Gaudette, Karen. "Why you're paying more at the grocery store." Seattle Times, April 21, 2008.

Avila, Oscar. "Mexico | What you have to do is fool your stomach." Chicago Tribune, April 17, 2008.

"Are you poor?"



Recently a Mexican visitor to the Orphanage was getting ready to leave. Sergio asked him, "Are you poor?"

The visitor replied, "Yes, I am poor. Are you poor?"

Sergio thought and replied, "Yes, I was poor, but not anymore. Because I have food and toys. Not anymore."

Thanks to you, our children don't feel poor, they feel blessed and loved.

OUR FABULOUS



We are so proud of our futbol stars! Here the happy and excited boys receive their league championship trophy.



Don't tell the boys, but the girls may look cooler at the soccer games than they do!

Above: The wind fans Leti's hair as she roots for her brothers Abel and Ramiro.

Right: Sofia posing it up with Damian.

FUTBOL STARS!

A beloved national passtime

You may be aware of the huge popularity of soccer all around the world. In Mexico, soccer (futbol) is a well-loved national passtime. The Orphanage has two soccer teams, the teen boys and the younger boys. Mexican Social Services (DIF) encourages orphanages to have soccer teams, and brings gifts to the orphanages to support the teams and athletics. El Sauzal's two teams play against other larger orphanages.

The team to conquer

The young boys have played well, and are getting better. The teen boys are the champions of their league. The other teams say, "...we are the the team to conquer," according to Orphanage director Josue. The El Sauzal boys are definitely not the biggest compared to other teams, but they play well, "...very fast and very strong," Josue says. Ramiro, Josias and Ricardo have been chosen for an All-Star type team. The teens have special training two days each week for speed and agility. They have set up a weight room at the Orphanage for their workouts.

An all-Orphanage event

Although only the boys play, the games are an all-Orphanage event. Director Josue laughingly sees himself as 'the owner' of the teams. The girls love to come out as cheerleaders and number one fans of the boys. You also are a part of the teams' success and fan base. Thank you for your support!



Back row: Ramiro, Jaime, Agustin, Josias, Abel, Ricardo, Leonardo and coach/grown Orphanage kid Jose Angel. Front row: Damian, Jesús, Pablo and David.



Above: Ruffo stands with the two teams, teen boys in back, younger boys in front.



IT DOESN'T GET BETTER

What do you think about volunteering at the Orphanage? First Baptist of Ashland, Oregon sent a large group of teens and adults down last summer. Here are some of their responses.

First Baptist's mens group just got home from working at the Orphanage in April. Their work projects have helped us immensely. This church has been helping us for 20 years.

Each morning as I woke up [at the orphanage] **God was there**, as I brushed my teeth, He was there, as I ate He was there, throughout the whole day, I could feel Him. [After working one night tiling the kitchen] I was reminded that He was still there because along the horizon there as a teal outline and above it a black sky full of the brightest stars I have seen. It was almost as if He had **whispered in my ear**, "That was for you, I love you." **God has surprised me** everyday this week with His love and His beauty. *-Erika H, 11th grade*

Bombai's smile is probably **one of the most comforting things** in the world. I plan on returning as many times as possible because it seems I can **only learn more and more.**

-Logan F, 11th grade



Your orphanage provides the perfect atmosphere for the love being shown. I hope to be able to **take the lessons I've learned** here and use them to **influence others back home** as well. *-Jordan R, 11th grade*

It's neat to be in a place where **the focus each day is on others**- helping others, praying for others, listening to others. *-Rebekah D, Leader*



I can't even express the thing God has done in my life for only one week's time. No matter how much worth and time I put into the Orphanage, [it] feels like **only a fraction** of what I get out of this place. *-Cody C, 10th grade*



This place is so **peaceful, relaxing and spiritually liberating**; there is no place like El Sauzal!

-Chelsea H, 9th grade



THAN THIS

The instant you walk through those red gates you can sense a difference in this place. There is beauty in the orphanage, a sparkle in the eyes of each person. "I saw the face of Jesus in a little orphan girl"; it's so true about this place. I am so proud to be part of something that **changes lives every day**. They make me proud to be a Christian.

-Elizabeth C, 11th grade



It is so relaxing here to **get away** and just **listen to God**.

-Ryan R, 11th grade

...students scattered around the campus reading a Scripture and writing down thoughts from **God talking to them**; Skittles and Starburst candy for extra encouragement; a host of cockroaches; **two languages lifting praise for one God side by side** - powerful, meaningful unity in the body of Christ; students and staff loving God and loving people. **It doesn't get better than this!! This is really living!!**

-Dwayne, Pastor



A Nursery Baby Shower

Lynessa and husband Bjorn T, from Washington are expecting their first baby soon. They found a way to share their joy with the nursery children at El Sauzal.

I was thinking about a way to give to other children/babies who won't be as fortunate as my own child to have all the toys, clothes, blankets, diapers, etc. that will be just given to me by friends and family. As I have my upcoming baby showers, I would like to ask guests to also bring some sort of item to donate to other babies who are less fortunate.

-Lynessa

Lynessa will be collecting items to help our nursery children. With our nursery bursting at the seams, these items are very needed. Blessings to Lynessa, Bjorn and their coming baby!

Two for one gifts!

We are grateful to have received several donations from our friends whose companies have matched their donations. Does your company match gifts? What a great way to double your donation!

- Eric Uber and Jose Maldonado with the Microsoft Corporation
- Max French with Burlington Northern Santa Fe
- Andrew Taylor with Northrop Grumman
- MaryAnn O'Connell with Washington Horesmen's Benevolent and Protective Association



Fifteen-year-old Carmen

"I want to have my own orphanage"

Fifteen-year-old Carmen Orozco López has volunteered as an additional nanny in our Nursery for over a year. She is the younger sister of Joanna, our primary Nursery Nanny. Carmen works just as hard as her sister does. I observed her with the children and found that she showers them with her love and affection. I saw her hold little ones close to her, caressing, and kissing each one that she was caring for, just like a mom who showers her love on her babies.

Roy: "How long have you been living here at the Orphanage?"

Carmen: "Over a year now."

Roy: "Why did you come here originally?"

Carmen: "I was experiencing problems with my parents."

Roy: "Why have you stayed so long, volunteering your work with the niños?"

Carmen: "Because of the children, I love the children."

Roy: "What about your schooling?"

Carmen: "I have not gone to school for awhile now. I was in the second level in junior high school."

Roy: "Do you want to go back to school?"

Carmen: "Yes I would like to finish school and go on to college."

Roy: "What do you know about our Lord Jesus?"

Carmen: "I know Him in my heart. I accepted Jesus and was baptized in my church two years ago."

Roy: "Do you have any dreams or goals for your life?"

Carmen: "I want to have my own orphanage."

Roy: "WOW!- what a tremendous goal and a very difficult but blessed life you will have."

Roy: "If you had the opportunity to say something to the people who come here, what would you say to them?"

Carmen: "Thank you so very much for all of the help that you give to us."

Carmen is a sensitive loving teen who gives of herself completely to the children. One of God's special servants who has been obedient to her heart's call. Please pray for her, for her future, and for the orphanage that she hopes to operate someday.

-Roy Ketting

Battle of the Christian Bands
 of Cascadia Christian High School's
 Performing Arts Center
 811 51st St. SE
 Tualup, WA

APRIL 27 7PM

Proceeds benefit the
 El Sauzal Orphanage
www.elsauzal.org

TICKETS: \$10.00 PRO-SHIRT
 \$12.00 AT THE DOOR

For tickets, information, or to sign up your band contact Pastor Clay Warren at
rcw@tacocrm.com or visit
<http://tacocrm.com/battleofthechristianbands>

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

For the second year in a row the youth group at Tacoma Christian Reformed Church has had a rocking time raising money for the Orphanage, with a Battle of the Christian Bands.

This year, the Battle raised over \$2,000. About one hundred kids attended the concert of the nine competing bands. The winner, Rapper Seize and second place band No Apathy will get to play at Big Splash, a northwest concert held at the Wild Waves theme park.