

Orphanage in Jeopardy?

by Roy V. Ketring, III

A recent article in the **Orange County Register** caused strong concern in El Sauzal supporters. It began with the following:

“El Sauzal Orphanage near Ensenada, Mexico, may be in jeopardy of closing its doors if the steady flow of U.S. volunteers on which it has relied for decades dwindles to a trickle, a possibility triggered by escalating violence in the region.” [Carcamo, Cindy. “Travel alerts scare 2 nations.” The Orange County Register. March 13, 2009, pg 1]

Every ministry in Baja has been affected by the crime in Tijuana and Rosarito. There are fewer volunteers coming. With the current world economy, donations are down as well. Financial and in-kind gifts to El Sauzal are down over this time last year.

I am frequently asked about the safety of traveling in Mexico. I reply that I personally have no fear nor am I concerned for my safety while traveling in Mexico. I clarify that I am careful where I go and when I go. I

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This Orange County Register article surprised El Sauzal Orphanage staff and friends



try not to drive at night, and I do not venture into areas that I am not familiar with. The problem is between drug dealers and drug cartels fighting each other, and their battles against the police and military who are trying to restore order.

I would like to share a verse from the Bible. *“But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, I am only a child [or in my case, I am too old]. You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and I will rescue you, declares the Lord.” -Jeremiah 1:7-8*

I believe that I am an example of this promise. The Lord has gone with me and protected me for 30 years in hundreds of trips to Baja, and I believe that He will do the same for anyone whom He calls to go minister in Mexico.

Is the El Sauzal Orphanage in jeopardy of closing? “This is God’s business,” Josue Espinoza said recently. *No, we are not in jeopardy of closing*, but we do strongly need your continued prayers and support.

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El Sauzal Foundation, Inc.
625 Shady Lane
Placentia, CA 92870
www.elsauzal.org



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Amiga Profile—Bess

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For many, many years Bess Keortge sent \$50 on a regular basis to help support the ministry at El Sauzal. When she had more, she would send some extra. Born in 1915, she lived through the Great Depression and knew about what it meant not to have

enough. She tried to be a good steward and to be faithful in remembering the children. Often she would include a note expressing her prayers for God's blessing.

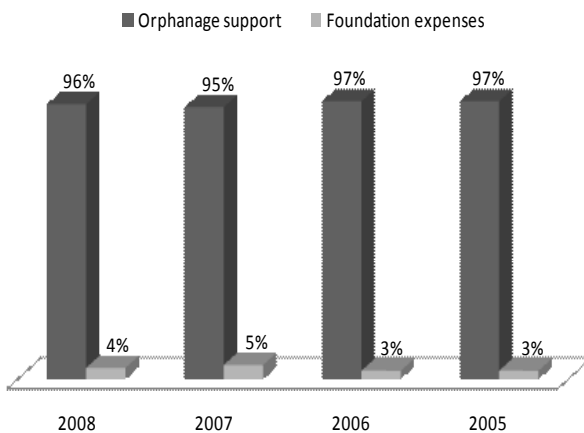
In January of 2009, at age 93, Bess went to be with her Lord. She had requested that \$5,000 from the remainder of her estate be given to El Sauzal. It is through these types of gifts and bequests, not large but consistent, that daily needs are met.

Have you considered remembering El Sauzal in your estate? *-by Chuck Keortge, Bess's son and an El Sauzal Foundation Inc. board member (see page 4)*

Proving Faithful

"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." -1 Corinthians 4:2

Our job at the El Sauzal Foundation is to get your donations to the Orphanage. (See back page for more about us.) Founded in late 2004, we work hard to keep our expenses minimal.



Magdalena and Ramon; they pastor a church on the Necua Indian reservation

Mark Your Calendar

Ramon & Magdalena's 50th Anniversary
The Espinozas were married January 12th, 1959. You are invited to join us as we commemorate their fifty years together on May 23rd, 2009.

Leticia's Quinceañera
Leti came to the Orphanage as a baby girl with her three siblings, Norma, Ramiro and Abel. (See about Ramiro's wedding below.) We are looking forward to celebrating Leti's 15th birthday at her Quinceañera, a beautiful church ceremony and special party on July 11th.



Leticia is looking forward to her special day

Rocio & Ramiro's Wedding
Ramiro and Rocio's wedding was March 21st at the Orphanage. As per Mexican law, they had a civil ceremony on February 23rd. You can see photos of their wedding in Josue Espinoza's Facebook Photos.



Ramon and Magdalena at the Orphanage in the 1980s



America and Isela's mom comfort baby Jacob as he reaches for a photo of his mom at the funeral. Isela's family traveled from La Paz for the services.

In the face of a tragic death, the Orphanage and its' supporters pull together as a loving family.

Remembering Isela

On January 19th, (Juana) Isela, the Orphanage's cook of many years, was in a tragic automobile accident. Isela, her husband, and their two youngest sons were driving along the steep, curving road that connects the toll road to San Antonio de Las Minas. Their car went off the road, falling about 280 feet and crashing against the big rocks at the bottom. Isela was thrown from the car and passed away. Her husband Jose Luis and the two boys, Natan and Jacob, were injured, but not seriously. The older children, America and David, were in school.

The news deeply shook the Orphanage and the little community of San Antonio. Many people attended Isela's wake and church and graveside ceremonies. Grown Orphanage kid Norma came forward to fill Isela's role as the cook.

Across the border in the United States, the news spread quickly. We posted the information on Facebook for the "Friends of El Sauzal Orphanage" group and sent out a mass email (see below). Quickly, messages from across the U.S. and Canada came pouring in, expressing sympathy, prayers and support.

We miss Isela greatly, but we are joyful that she is in heaven, and we will see her again.

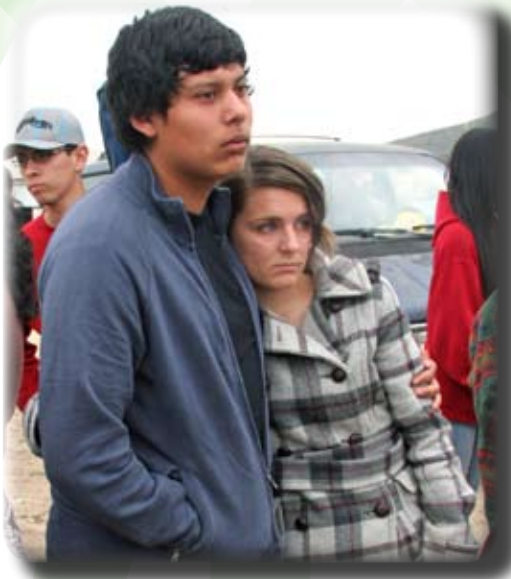
••••• Sharing News and Updates •••••

• Did you receive an email from us when Isela died? If not, here are two ways that you can be more connected with news from El Sauzal:

• 1. Send your email address; we'll add you to our email list (or update your address). Send to patty.meadows@elsauzal.org.

• 2. Join Facebook.com. You can then join the "Friends of El Sauzal Orphanage" group. It's a place to share pictures, videos and stories. We can send messages to members. There are now more than 70 members in our group.

Leonardo comforting gringa Kelly Hinz at the graveside ceremony. "She was always so caring and thoughtful. I will never forget the countless ways she showed me kindness," Kelly wrote.



Juana Isela 1974 - 2009

"Her smile was contagious. I will miss her interactions with the kids." -Josh Brazier, Utah

"Isela just glowed with contentment and peace, and she glowed with Jesus honestly." -Geoff & Heidi Quayle, Ontario, Canada



Please remember Isela's children - America, David, Jose Natan and Jacob in your prayers. They are spending much of their time at the Orphanage.

Rejoin the grocery program

Even if you have previously signed up to help El Sauzal with your grocery card, Ralphs and Albertsons need you to re-register.

Here is an easy way to support the Orphanage through Albertsons and Ralph grocery stores' rebate programs. You will receive discounts, and both grocery chains will send a percentage of your purchase to the charity of your choice. The two chains are requiring all those who wish to support a charity to re-register their grocery card.

Albertsons

You can sign up with the Albertsons Community Partners Program by accessing its web site at: **Albertsons Community Partners**, and click on "Shoppers log in or register with your Preferred Savings Card first." The El Sauzal Foundation, Inc. I.D. No. is: **49001010651**. If you receive an error message while registering, call Customer Service at 1-877-932-7948. They will link your card and telephone number and register you with the Foundation.



Ralphs

Ralphs introduced a new Ralphs Rewards Card last May. There were tables set up in their stores where you could get a new card. If you did not re-register your new card naming the Foundation as the charity of your choice, nothing is being sent to the Orphanage through your purchases at Ralphs.



You can sign up with Ralphs by accessing their web site at: **Ralphs - My Ralphs - Ralphs Rewards** and sign up as a participant. After registering your card, click on "Community Contribution." Ralphs' NPO number for the El Sauzal Foundation is **82760**.

Please email Roy.Ketring@elsauzal.org to let us know that you have re-registered. The children of El Sauzal Orphanage pray for you regularly.

May we introduce ourselves?

The board members of the El Sauzal Foundation bring years of love and experience to their jobs

Roy V. Ketring III, President



Railroad consultant; involved with Hispanic ministries at Placentia Presbyterian; El Sauzal's U.S. liaison—helping visitors plan trips to El Sauzal; has worked with Orphanage more than 30 years. Resides in Placentia, CA with his wife Brenda.

Clay Warren, Secretary

Youth pastor at Tacoma Christian Reformed Community Church; has lead groups (youth and adult) to the Orphanage for almost 20 years. Lives in Puyallup, WA with his wife Naomi; their children Danielle and Chad, who are both college students, have been visiting El Sauzal since childhood.



Kim Strobel, Treasurer

Middle school technology teacher; involved with El Sauzal since 2002. Resides in Auburn, WA with her husband Larry.



Roger Christanson

Biology professor at Southern Oregon University; elder at Ashland First Baptist; has been working with Orphanage since the 1980s. Lives in Ashland, OR with his wife Angie.



Charles Keortge

Retired high school Spanish teacher; deeply involved in missions at Grace Chapel, Lancaster, CA; has assisted El Sauzal since the 1980s. Resides in Palmdale with his wife Linda.



Pete Legan

Retired firefighter; youth leader and missions worker at Grace Chapel; has been visiting and leading groups to the Orphanage since the 1980s. Lives in Lancaster, CA with his wife Nita.



Don Mahoney

High school special-needs teacher; involved with Hispanic ministries at Placentia Presbyterian; has helped El Sauzal since the 1990s. Resides in Placentia, CA with his wife Karen.



Patty Meadows

Ultrasound technologist; has been publishing Que Pasa newsletter since 2000; El Sauzal webmaster; first visited the Orphanage in 1989. Lives in Auburn, WA with her husband Keith and three school-age daughters.

