



iQue Pasa!

CHRISTMAS 2007

Bombai's Happiness

Christmas is a special time of year for children all over the world. A time for joy, excitement, and wonder. And for children who are hurting and in pain, a time to hope for better things to come.

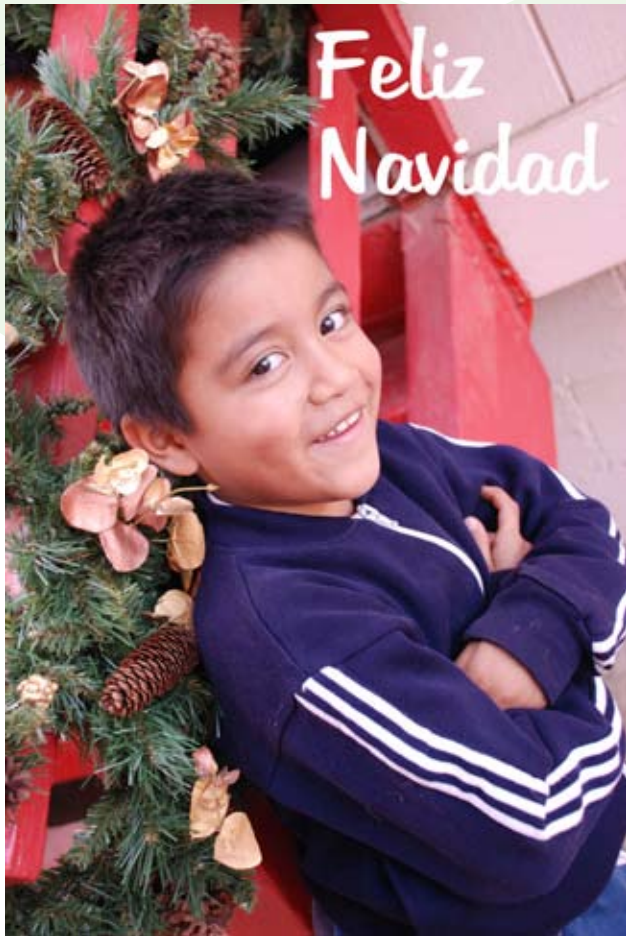
When Mary was pregnant with Jesus, she said, "[God] has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things.." - Luke 1:52-53. The children that come to us are humble and hungry - hungry for love, hope and security. Let me tell you the story of one such child.

Bombai came to the Orphanage a few years ago. At first he was sad and withdrawn, like many children when they arrive. In a short period of time, Bombai blossomed. He quickly became outgoing, mischievous and fun-loving. He loves meeting and playing with visitors. (You can read about Bombai's impact on visitor Bill Yu on page 3.)

In April 2006, when Bombai was six-years-old, he was adopted by a single woman in Mexico. Preparing for Bomai to leave was very bittersweet at El Sauzal. The staff and visitors who knew him were happy for his new life, but sad to lose such a wonderful child.

Then, quietly, in the late summer of 2006, Bombai was returned to El Sauzal. His adoptive mom did not feel that she could care for him. We were overjoyed at his return, but Bombai was hurt. Nanny Betty told me how Bombai spent some months sad and withdrawn. Then very slowly he opened up again. This photo was taken of him last Christmas.

When you help El Sauzal, you help bring hope and joy to kids like Bombai. A hope that there are better things to come.



Bombai smiles happily in front of the dining hall's front steps at Christmas

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The EL SAUZALITO team, made of Orphanage kids, both young and grown. Ricardo is 2nd from left on back row.

This just in...our soccer team wins!

The Orphanage has two soccer team- a children's team, and a second team called "EL SAUZALITO" made up of teens and adults. Team EL SAUZALITO competes with teams from nearby pueblos. I was fortunate to attend one of team EL SAUZALITO'S matches on a Sunday evening at El Porvenir where they competed against the local team. I took a look at the other team as they came onto the court and said to Josue, "Those guys are really big." And they were when compared to the size of the guys on the Orphanage's team.

The match was played on an outdoor lighted cement court that had perimeter walls much like an ice hockey rink. Part of the strategy was to kick the ball into the wall attempting to send the glancing ball to a team member. Our team won the match 4-0. They have now won two and lost one. I was really impressed with their talent. They are really GOOD!

Congratulations to Ricardo! He is on team EL SAUZALITO and was invited to play on the Baja California State's team for kids seventeen years old and under. What an honor!

-Roy Ketring

Sharing your pics

Here are a few of your shots with our kids. If you have any to share, email them to Patty Meadows @elsauzal.org.



Dentist Dave being attacked by Alan

"I will never forget the precious faces of the children."

-Angelica, Fontana, CA



Juliana from Sunridge Community Church in British Columbia, Canada with Nacho. Say "cheese"!

His heart overflowed with love

“She doesn’t realize the impact she’s made on my heart.”

Here, elementary school teacher Bill Yu from Canada shares his experiences with a few special El Sauzal kids.

Aided by “Ambassador” Abel

Before we went to Mexico, members of our church were asked to pick a child and prepare a backpack for them with supplies, clothes etc. I’m an elementary school and physical education teacher during the year and I recently taught a boy named Abel, so it only seemed natural to select him (my wife and I also intentionally select teens for missions/Operation Christmas Child/Salvation Army as they usually get left out as they’re seen as older and not as cute).

Well, throughout our time at the orphanage, Abel became our ambassador. He talked to us, helped translate, did everything from cook with us, played sports with us and everything else in between. Getting to know him reminded me of Psalms where David talks about God knowing us from the very start. Only HE could’ve planned for us to meet and get along so well before I even knew what would happen in Mexico. Abel truly was a God-send.

Bombai, my constant companion



I’m not even sure how this started, but basically, I was cleaning up after a sports program and Bombai came to me to play soccer shootout. I assumed that he could be up close due to his size and age and my experience with grade 2s in Canada. Well, after getting my head nearly taken off with his first shot, I moved him back and we played for a long while. After that, he was my constant companion, and on

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Violetta and Bill, “Photo, photo!”

the last day, he just looked at me and quietly said “Bill... amigo.” and gave me a hug. That made my heart overflow with love and he, Ramon and I took our last photo for the year. I’ve committed to praying for him, Ramon, Sergio, Carlos, and Omar specifically throughout the year.

Love equals open hearts

On the first day at El Sauzal I was told by some people who went on the previous year’s mission that I shouldn’t be too surprised if some of the kids were a little shy around me, a newcomer. This was particularly true for Violetta. I was told that she REALLY has a tough time getting used to new adults, particularly men. So I did my sports program, construction, etc. and intentionally served the children around Violetta where I could, but I didn’t try to approach her if she seemed shy.

However, by the last day, I guess she figured I was familiar enough (or knew that we were leaving) and ran to ME, calling out “Photo, photo!” Well, I didn’t need to be asked twice, and we took a bunch of photos with her smiling, hugging, laughing, checking out my stubble with her fingers (she really loved that), and this, possibly my favourite photo, reminding me that a little love can allow God to open hearts.

She may not even remember me next year, and doesn’t realize the impact she’s made on my heart, but for her, Abel, Jesus/Bombai, and so many of the other children, I can’t wait to go back next year and see what else I can do to be a blessing in their lives, although I know that they’ll end up blessing me more!

- Bill Yu from Cornerstone Community Church, Markham, Ontario Canada

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The Love Bus

Last spring we sent out a plea for a new van for the Orphanage. We were doubly blessed! Not only did we receive the donations to purchase a good used van (see story on page 6), but a shuttle bus was donated in July. This story was written by Kris, whose husband Frank procured the bus.

On July 1st, my husband Frank Barron was able to realize another dream come true. After several months of searching, shaking hands and telling the heartfelt story of El Sauzal, he found someone to donate a small shuttle bus for "his kids". The bus had belonged to a community outreach program in Riverside, California.

The bus had sat idle for three years and was in need of various repairs. The cost of repairing the bus and making it one hundred percent road-worthy was paid for by the Sunroad Automotive Group and Erik Nelson, Vice President and General Manager of Pacific Honda, both of San Diego.



Josue smiling with the new keys, Erika and Frank

Upon arrival at the Orphanage, Frank drove the bus onto the property honking the horn, trying to draw attention to the new addition he was driving. Frank exited the bus, meeting Erika, Ruffo and Josue, whose blank stares of wonder only made Frank's smile broader. Frank, along with Jim, handed the keys to them, and they were greatly surprised. We were all wrought with tears rejoicing in what God had done.

After Erika took our guests on a tour of the Orphanage, Frank surprised us all by inviting everyone—kids, nannies, administrators and guests to lunch at the beautiful La Hacienda restaurant. The kids, grinning from ear to ear all ran to jump aboard the 'Love Bus', excited that they could all fit on the bus together. They invited Tio Frank (uncle Frank) to join them.

This was an amazing afternoon, filled with friendship, laughter, sunshine, music and food - a joyful day of celebration.

Thank God for His many blessings. *-by Kris Barron*



The Love Bus, covered with hearts, was a big surprise and blessing

The little white bus adorned with red hearts was an answer to a prayer. Soon it found itself loaded with donations of food, clothing, toys and personal hygiene items, headed to Mexico, with

Frank at the wheel, smiling broadly. He was met at San Antonio del Mar by more friends and donations. We all caravanned down the beautiful Baja coast to El Sauzal.

Frank was aided in this mission of love by close friend Steve Cassarino of "The Clever Cleaver Brothers" (TV chefs), and Jim Weatherly, (president of the NFL Alumni, San Diego Chapter) and his wife and three children.



The kids enjoyed the bus

Calling all Contractors

If you have construction experience and live in the southern California or Mexico area, the Orphanage could use your help.

Do you know of a septic designer who might help with the design of a septic system at the Orphanage?

Please contact Floyd Hoffman at floydhoffman@juno.com or 253-939-7569.

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Floyd smiles here, covered with flour. A contractor, Floyd is chair of the Orphanage's Maintenance and Facilities Committee.

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Merry and Chris multitask their gifts

Orphanage friends Chris and Merry Westwood, used to be involved in chainsaw carving. A friend, David, asked them to help by selling his carvings at a competition this summer. It was big commitment.



Merry and Chris use their talents to help their friends at home and across the border

We thought of the children of El Sauzal and how much the money would mean to them. So we agreed to do the job for David and donate the money to El Sauzal.



Dan Whited carving a flying gremlin

The photographs show our friends, artist David Westberg and artist Dan Whited carving in the competition held in Ocean Shores [WA] each year. The event covers three days of carving for a total of 20 hours of carving. There are as many as 20 to 30 carvers at the event. You will see David's twin dolphins emerge from the wood and the fun and quirky flying gremlin knocking down sandcastles that Dan carved.

Arriving at the competition we were asked by Dan Whited if we would sell his carvings so he too could help contribute. So immediately, God enlarged our gift by providing an additional artist to sell for. We thank God that we had this opportunity to serve others in this fashion.

-by Chris Westwood

After their hard work, Chris and Merry sent a donation of \$3,000. We are so grateful to them and their friends David and Dan for this generous gift. Muchas gracias!

David Westberg creating an elegant pair of dolphins with a chainsaw



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Josue and Lilia with the new van.

Muchas gracias - You did it again!

We are so grateful for your help and support. Last spring we asked for your aid in getting a new van, and in August we told you of our need for assistance with back to school uniforms. You helped the El Sauzal children in a special way. Here is an update on your generosity:

You gave \$12,800 to purchase a van. We recently found and purchased our new vehicle, a 2000 Chevrolet 15-passenger van. It cost \$11,300, which left funds for the importation expenses into Mexico. (The van was purchased in California.) We are so grateful for this vehicle, and were also blessed with a second vehicle - a bus. You can read the story of the "Love Bus" on page four.

You responded to the back to school plea with \$3,100. Thank you! That was enough to cover

the uniform costs of our children at the beginning of this school year.

For forty years, El Sauzal has stayed open through the power of God and His help through faithful friends, like you. We pray that God continues to bless you and your family this Christmas and in the new year to come!

Feliz Navidad

*".. it was good of you to share in my troubles."
- Philippians 4:14*



Dalilah with one of our sweet nursery babies

Dalilah serves from across the border

New Orphanage friend, Dalilah, first visited El Sauzal last Christmas. She is a student at Seattle Pacific University (SPU), and helped organize a group of SPU students to visit the Orphanage last spring. We received a letter and check from the University in October. It read:

I'm delighted to inform you that Dalilah B. was awarded the 2007 Seattle Pacific University Barnabas Servant Leadership Scholarship Award. As a recipient of this award, Dalilah received a scholarship and \$250 to contribute to the charity of her choice. Dalilah chose your ministry to receive the \$250 portion of her award.

Congratulations to Dalilah on her scholarship! We are delighted for her, and very grateful for her help to the Orphanage. Muchas gracias new friend!