



It's That Time of Year

iQue Pasa!

CHRISTMAS 2008

This Christmas you will be giving presents to family and friends; like the song says 'pretty things for you and for me' (from "The Christmas Waltz"). How often do you have a chance to give to true love?



When the world falls in love

Twenty-three-year-old Ramiro has grown up at the Orphanage. He and his siblings Norma, Leticia and Abel arrived at El Sauzal about fourteen years ago. Once a shy boy and now a hard-working young man, Ramiro has become an integral worker at El Sauzal, assisting with the daily operations of the orphanage.

Rocio is a quiet, serious, dedicated nanny of the boys. She has worked at El Sauzal about a year. Not long after she started it was clear that Ramiro and Rocio were made for each other.

Last month, Ramiro drove south of Ensenada to meet with Rocio's parents. He took Papa Josue, and asked for Rocio's hand in marriage. It will be a wonderful wedding.

May your New Years' dreams come true

Will you give a special gift to the Orphanage this Christmas? Your donations sustain our kids with material needs like food, shelter and clothing. They also help us fill the children's intangible needs for love, security, comfort and spiritual teaching. And there are other remarkable ways that your gifts help - like bringing Ramiro and Rocio together.

Wishing you and yours, the same thing too



(Top) Grown Orphanage kid Ramiro proposing to nanny Rocio at her parents' house

(Right) A younger Ramiro, twelve years ago



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Danielle has been visiting and serving at El Sauzal with her family since she was six-years-old

Knee deep in the sewage of life

During this trip, my faith was expanded through seeing God's ability to use people to touch the lives of others, even when things are not necessarily going well in their own lives. Our project for this year's mission trip was to do some work to improve the septic system at the orphanage. This meant many hours of digging in sewage, oftentimes up to our knees.



Not a pleasant job

Also, during this year's trip many of the members of our team were facing various life difficulties back home. This could be seen as a barrier to doing God's work to the fullest on a mission trip. However, God worked through the life issues of our team members to show His love to the people we came to serve. These challenges can be viewed as similar in some ways to the septic system. Working with the septic system was not a pleasant or an easy job. We got sore, we got dirty, we got tired, and we often wanted to quit, but through all this, we completed the job with joy, knowing that it would help the orphanage tremen-

dously and knowing that it was a project that had needed to be completed for a long time.

Want to quit trying?

Likewise, with all of the issues life throws at us, it is not always easy or enjoyable to focus on helping others. We often feel that we cannot focus on the needs of others when we have many of our own needs. We get tired and overwhelmed, and perhaps want to quit trying. We feel that our lives are full of "filth" and "sewage." However, God can use us even in these times. He takes the problems we are having and works with them to touch the lives of others.

God can use "filthy" lives

As a team we were able to bless the orphanage by working knee-deep in sewage. We were also able to reach out in love to the Mexican children and staff, even though many of us were overwhelmed with issues in our own lives. This is a good reminder and lesson to all of us, that when we feel like we are knee-deep in the sewage of life, God is still able to use our lives, as "filthy" as they may be, to show His love and grace to others. We just need to be willing to let Him. -Danielle Warren, Puyallup, WA

Now playing on YouTube and Facebook



YouTube: A website for collecting and sharing videos. Watch fun movies made by visiting church groups, videos taken by Josue of the boys' soccer games and three minute informational movies about El Sauzal and grown-Orphanage kid Viviana's life.

Facebook: A networking site. You can join the "Friends of El Sauzal Orphanage" group, and comment, share and interact with other Orphanage amigos.

To see the YouTube videos, or check out the "Friends of El Sauzal" Facebook group, visit www.elsauzal.org, and select the YouTube or Facebook links on the left of the homepage.



The Lord had a bigger vision for us

"I have never personally seen God work in this way before."

This year was a new experience altogether for me. Eight of the last nine years I have enjoyed serving at El Sauzal Orphanage. My specialty—the nursery. I love being with the children and making a special connection with the nannies. This year, though, the Lord expanded my service to the orphanage and He used my husband to do so.

This was Seth's first trip down, and he went primarily to support this passion of mine. However, one of Seth's specialties is serving, so when he made a career choice, it was a natural decision for him to become a chiropractor. When we packed to leave for the orphanage, we sent down the portable table, thinking that we could at least use it for my dad, my brother, and me, who are all under care at his office. But the Lord had a bigger vision for both Seth and me.

Pastor Clay informed Josue that Seth was at the orphanage and explained what Seth did. Josue jumped at the opportunity to get the futbol [soccer] players under care. So Monday, we opened up a chiropractic clinic in the dental clinic right there at the orphanage. I know a little Spanish, but not enough to explain how to "roll over" and "lay on your side," and Seth didn't know any Spanish. On Monday, Seth started treating the team. Then, surprisingly, the team (Ramiro and Abel especially) started bringing other children in to see us. We adjusted about 25 children in two hours that day.

Each day it was the same story. Seth would walk



Seth and Kristin with Kristin's 'specialty' - nursery kids

across the grounds of the orphanage in the afternoon with his table, and the kids would yell "Doctor Seth!" and follow him to the clinic. Then they would leave and come back with more people to be checked. They knew that what Seth was providing was good and healthy. So, soon

we started seeing community members. Julio, who grew up at the orphanage, came to get checked, and then asked us if he could take us to his home to adjust his in-laws and his own family because they were not able to make it to the orphanage.

I have never personally seen God work in this way before. Seth and I were not able to communicate verbally with Julio's family, but we were still able to connect with them spiritually. They were so thankful for the care, and we were so thankful that they believed it was important enough to get checked.

There were so many wonderful stories and encounters that we had. God showed us how to serve, and Josue made it possible. Chiropractic care is a gift that God gave Seth, and we were so thankful that Seth was able to share it with the orphanage, its workers,

and the community! It brought tears to our eyes when, as our team was leaving, Ramiro embraced Seth and said, "You come back next year." Thank you, El Sauzal, for our life changing experience with you!

-Kristin Anderson, Tacoma, WA



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College class "changes" for Orphanage

The vast majority of students at California State University Fullerton not only carry full academic loads, but also must work, some almost full time, in order to pay for tuition, books and food. These busy students, taking four and five courses, find themselves scrambling to find time to complete all the work their professors assign. When Professor Nancy Jimeno asked her American Government class how much they'd pay to avoid one of four writing assignments, they let out a cheer. She showed the class photos of the children on the El Sauzal website and suggested that if each student gave twenty-five cents, they would have fifty-five dollars to donate to the children.

The professor passed an envelope around the class expecting to harvest the change out of her student's pockets and purses, but after the envelope found its way back to the front of the lecture hall,



Roy Ketring presented with a check from a student and Professor Nancy Jimeno



CSUF's American Government class gave their change to help El Sauzal

she was delighted \$181.50 had been collected.

The next week, the class was visited by Roy Ketring, who came to receive the donation and give the students a pictorial glimpse of the wonderful children at El Sauzal. Mr. Ketring came to thank them and tell them about the orphanage children he obviously deeply cares for, but the class in turn would like to thank him and all of those who enrich the lives of the children at El Sauzal.

-Professor Nancy Jimeno, CSUF

Editor's Note: After Roy spoke with the class, one of the students approached him; she had spent time living at the Orphanage, and now is attending college at CSUF.

Two new baby boys that bless El Sauzal Like Grandpa!



Lynessa with 3-week-old son Gunnar delivering big boxes of baby supplies

It runs in the family

When Lynessa and Bjorn Tinglum of Puyallup, Washington, got pregnant, they decided to share with the Orphanage children. Lynessa has visited El Sauzal with her family before, and her parents Ron and Pat Bode are passionate about supporting the Orphanage.

"We just had my last baby shower yesterday and I got many more donations for El Sauzal. We probably have at least 4-5 large shipping boxes full of items. (Clothing, toys, diapers, etc.) I hope it blesses the staff and the children of El Sauzal. Wish I could be there to see all those beautiful babies using these items!"



Ruffo and Erika's second child, little Ruffito, was born in August. (Their first child, daughter Adanesne, is 9-years-old.) When I mentioned to his grandpa, Josue, how handsome Ruffito was, Josue commented, "Si el esta muy guapo [yes, he is very handsome]....like Grandpa!"