



iQue Pasa!

CHRISTMAS 2009

Making A Magical Christmas Memory

The first weekend of December, the nonprofit group Kaiizen came to visit and share Christmas joy. Here is an account of the imaginative and fun event they held for the El Sauzal children.

When Kaiizen visits it's all about the kids. Over the years we have worked on projects to benefit the El Sauzal Orphanage but more importantly we try to make each trip a positive lifetime memory for the children. This December we had another great trip as the Kaiizen volunteers planned and organized an event to both treat all the children and teach them about giving. It was time for a night on the town.

Stretch Limos & Formal Clothes

Each Kaiizen mentor started by giving their assigned child a new formal outfit to prepare them for the next surprise.

Three white stretch limos pulled up to escort them to Walmart where they would buy a gift for another child at the orphanage. Unaware of the plan, the kids were shocked at first, then ecstatic once they realized that they were the ones going for a ride. After traveling into town the volunteers met the kids at the Walmart. This year the emphasis wasn't so much on



what they were going to get, as to what they were going to give. Each mentor had 500 pesos [about \$50], and with their orphan was on a mission to overtake the store with the true Christmas spirit!

A Red Carpet Experience

After arriving back home the children were welcomed with Christmas decorations, a red carpet and as always, cheering volunteers. They had their picture taken, and were then escorted into the dining room only to be greeted by a formal dinner setting and more decorations. Volunteers then gave the children menus to order their own custom



dinner; they enjoyed a five-course meal. It was then time for a fun "talent" show before the grand finale, giving away the presents. Kaiizen volunteers made the traditional tunnel and as each child's name was drawn they ran down the tunnel with a bar-

rage of cheers and pats on the back. As they reached the end, they were greeted by a fellow child, giving them the gift they had worked so hard to choose. After receiving their gift, they waited anxiously to be able to give the gift they had chosen for another child.

What a treat it was for us to see them get so excited to shop for each other and then personally give gifts to their friends. Each time we visit, no matter what activities we have planned, what work we do, or what games we play, we give our hearts to these kids and every time they somehow manage to always give more back. So celebrate with us and El Sauzal in the true meaning of Christmas and find ways to give to those around you, especially those you love. Merry Christmas El Sauzal, we love you! ~Kaiizen.

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A Desperate Need & Inspiring Help

In November, El Sauzal's Assistant Director Erika wrote a letter describing the Orphanage's food needs. We sent out her letter to our Facebook "Friends of El Sauzal Orphanage's group. (Please join!) Your responses were encouraging.

Erika's Letter - A Food Shortage

Grandpa:

My dad asked me to tell you how things are going here at the orphanage, I thought he had already told you because the situation that is very bad. We used to have donations in goods like food, personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, etc., Groceries in general from at least a couple of different individuals through all the year, but right now no one is bringing anything, just a few people are still visiting us. Monetarily you know how things are, but at least we used to be able to buy toilet paper, now, we don't have not even for that, I had to give to the orphanage my house toilet paper and shampoo, my mother had to use her own food for the children to eat a decent meal, etc., we (my dad, Keila and me) have used our salary and other money to buy the food and to provide for the children different needs. The meals consist in in beans, rice and flour only, because there is nothing else we can offer to the children, Thanks God that at least we have that!!!!.

In my desperation I went to Ensenada to a lot of different supermarkets and stores asking for donations and for their support, but no one could help us. I believe God is faithful and that He has always provided for our children needs, but , I also believe that as sons and daughters of God, we have the freedom and the obligation to tell our brothers and sisters how our situation is, what are or needs, because if they don't know, how can God touch their hearts so they can be used for His glory? We are stilling the

blessings from them!

I'm letting you know all of this, so you can inform our brothers and sisters that love this Orphanage of our situation. Again, I'm not doing this because I don't have any faith, I'm doing it because I trust my Lord and that if we do the part we were given, He will do His part and show is Glory and showered us with His blessing!!

-Erika, Orphanage Assistant Director



Ricardo is grateful for all your help

Help from Across Borders

As the word of the Orphanage's food shortage spread, many who heard were compelled to give. One woman who had faithfully given smaller amounts to El Sauzal wrote a check for \$1,000. Another friend gave \$2,500.

Rick Hinz, an elder at SeaTac Bible Church in Federal Way, Washington printed Erika's newsletter in the church bulletin, and read it aloud during an evening service. SeaTac members were moved to give almost \$1,000.

Geoff Quayle, from Ontario, Canada was also moved to action. He wrote the following:

When I recently received the news from Erika that the orphanage was really struggling Heidi and I felt God challenging me again to step up and help out. I began to ask friends, family and co-workers again for help. They responded with eagerness. Within 2 weeks God provided about \$1700 to send immediately to the orphanage. We have faith that God will assist us to raise even more in the coming weeks. Christmas is a time when the children and staff need to know they are not forgotten. I pray that God will continue to move in the hearts of those who have had stirrings to send donations now and for many months to come. *(Read more from Geoff on the next page.)*

These are just some of the ways that you, our friends, moved to help us in this difficult time. We know that historically January and February are hard months financially at El Sauzal. We are so grateful for your generosity and love. Dios le bendiga- God bless you!!

El Sauzal Orphanage Made Me a Better Husband & Father

It's hard to believe that it was ten years ago since I first visited the orphanage. I was a Youth Pastor at the time, looking for ideas for a short term mission trip with my youth group. I heard about El Sauzal from a friend who had visited there, and following a conference in San Deigo we impulsively decided to drive down for the day. I remember feeling immediately connected to the children, and made arrangements with Josue to visit the following summer. I have been privileged to be able to bring numerous groups as well as members of my family over the past nine years. I started out going on these trips thinking, well, it would be good for the teenagers in my youth group. Then, good for my own kids, to learn what it's like for children in another world. But it has meant so much to me personally and spiritually.

A Treasured Member of the Family

One of the amazing things about visiting El Sauzal is that in spite of the fact that the children have been exposed to so many groups they treat each person like a treasured member of their family. Over the years my family and I have grown to love the children very much and have enjoyed watching them grow, some even marry and have children of their own. We also have family-love feelings for many staff and volunteers from the community. It was with great shock and sadness that this past January, El Sauzal and especially four dear children lost their wonderful mother, Isela, who had worked at the orphanage in a variety of capacities, most often their cook. Her death affected our family deeply; she was one of those individuals who we looked for first upon our arrival each year. Every team member who had ever come with us loved her beautiful spirit, her silliness, her playful and tender relationship with her children, and her hospitality. She and Betty would often cook tamales and mole chicken for our team – on their day off!!



Geoff with America, Isela's daughter, at her Quinceañera last summer

The Most Difficult...and Most Meaningful Trip

Of all my trips to the orphanage, the trip in February [for Isela's funeral] was the most difficult trip that I would ever have to take. I would also discover later that this would be one of the most meaningful. Grieving and praying with the family as well as the orphans and friends of Isela in this time of need, allowed a greater level of intimacy than I had ever felt with them. I believe they also felt the love of our team and of Christ through sending me as a conduit of concern and care. I literally fell apart and they were both surprised and moved to know that for me (and for all those I was there

to represent) this was not just a 'charity' I supported. They were loved and it made them happy. To see their resilient spirit and the way they were able to keep moving forward in spite of their grief showed me that they have a lot to teach me about faith and gratefulness for everything and every person in our lives. I came home as a better husband, father, and more committed to El Sauzal and those in the local community. Ready to serve in my new church and ready to figure out if there was more I could do at the orphanage. I'm still asking God that question and am taking every opportunity He presents to me to be involved. This has included becoming Isela's youngest son Jacob's godparent and our family being patrons for America (Isela's daughter) and be involved in her Quinceañera later on that summer.

God has revealed other ways He will use me and my family, but not just us...anyone who is willing...to share His love for the sparrows which have fallen and are being cared for at El Sauzal. *-Geoff Quayle, Ontario, Canada*



Finally Here! Our Sponsorship Program

We are excited to announce a new way to support our children! Our sponsorship program is a non-profit plan designed to reach the needs of the orphanage in new and lasting ways. We currently have a list of children who need sponsoring at www.4life4love.org. That website can also be accessed through our main orphanage website (www.elsauzal.org).

How does this program work? That's what many of us have spent all summer working hard on! Here is a short list of FAQs to help explain. A complete list of FAQs can be found on the new child sponsorship website, along with other information about the organization.

What is 4life4love.org?

4life4love.org is the name of the website associated with the sponsorship program for the children of El Sauzal Orphanage. The sponsorship program is managed by El Sauzal Foundation, Inc., the non-profit organization designed to aid El Sauzal Orphanage.

What is the purpose of El Sauzal's sponsorship program?

Our mission is twofold. First, we desire to strengthen relationships between you (the donors and supporters) and the children and staff at the

Two of the kids you can choose to sponsor



Violeta, 5 years old

Fav Colors: Pink & White

Dreams of caring for other children when she is older



Damian, 14 years old

Fav Food: Chinese

Dreams of being a pro soccer player

orphanage. This connection is made by pairing each donor with a specific child at El Sauzal Orphanage. Secondly, we aim to establish a more secure financial base for El Sauzal through regular giving.

How much does it cost to sponsor a child?

It costs the orphanage \$377 per child per month to operate. We encourage those who are able to prayerfully consider fully supporting one child on a monthly basis. You can also choose to give \$200, \$100, \$75, \$50, or \$25 a month. Regardless of the dollar amount you are able to give, your generosity will be a blessing and a support to El Sauzal Orphanage.

What are the acceptable means of payment?

Currently, you can choose to pay through one of several methods. From the 4life4love.org website, you can download and print a form to mail with a check, or you can choose to sponsor through Paypal and automatic withdrawal.

Want more information?

If you are interested in sponsoring a child or making a one-time donation, please visit 4life4love.org. If you have any other questions, please contact our program coordinator at patty.siegmund@elsauzal.org.