

Esperanza para los Ninos

"Hope for the Children"

February 13, 2010

"So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without His unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever." II Corinthians 4: 16 - 18 The Message



Our friends in Mexico, in fact the country as a whole, have taken one hit after the next in the last year. Within a few months in late 2008 and early 2009, there were headlines in the American papers with lurid stories about the increased violence at the borders, the dangers of the Swine Flu and then the collapse of the American economy went worldwide. We have seen first hand the dire results in Mexico, particularly Rocky Point. Empty streets, near empty or closed restaurants, unfinished construction, and an empty pantry at Esperanza. Thanks so much to our friends, my bookclub, our Sunday School Class, and other giving, caring people the children at Esperanza

haven't gone hungry.

After I spent \$16 @ for 3 four pound cans, I began to investigate trying to find a source to provide powdered milk for the children at a wholesale price. I asked our Sunday School Class if anyone knew of a wholesale distributor for powdered milk. Wally came up to me afterwards and gave me the name of Bill Jansen, with Arizona Dairymen. We hope to establish through them a way to get the much needed (and expensive) powdered milk for the kids. AND the Dairymen even donated TWO 50 pound bags of powdered milk (2%) for them! Wahhhoooooo! Wally told me later that he isn't usually in our class at the time I made the announcement – he's usually out ushering. Some people don't recognize this phenomenon, but we know that's "a God Thing." It so often happens when people are doing His work. We might even be able to get some powdered milk that is a bit richer and more palatable than the typical skim milk. (Have you ever had powdered skim milk on your dry cereal --- blue water.... YUCK!) Stay tuned.

Last weekend, February 12 – 14, we once again traveled to Rocky Point to provide dental care, as well

as deliver food to the children's home. Our team consisted of 3 dentists, me, Arnold (our friend and translator), and 3 others who helped in the clinic. Our day went so smoothly you'd think we'd worked together for years. Dr. Kris treats the kids just like Steve and Dick, ... with the gentle touch of a father treating his own children.

His wife and two teenage kids joined us, providing all sorts of assistance, from chairside, to photography, to helping with lunch.

Linda, from Arnold's

church, took to learning chairside assistant techniques immediately. Charlie and Jennifer, our friends for many years, did the same. Charlie had been assigned to the dental clinics while in the Army and renewed his skills from 40 years ago. Jennifer fit right in setting up



the dental instruments and supplies for the next procedure. And as always, I sterilized the instruments and kept the records for the children.

We now have 47 kids at Esperanza and 6 adults. Of the four new kids two were only 2 and 3 years old, but the other two were teenagers and in need of a lot of dentistry. The new adult had also not had the money for dentistry, and had a number of cavities. We spent most of the morning with just those three patients.



Mid morning one of the new little three year old boys, Roberto, came wandering into the clinic, making it clear that he wanted to see the “doctore.” When the older boy who was our next patient came in and sat in the dental chair, little Roberto’s face just clouded up. He made it very clear that he was disappointed when we gently shoed him out. Later, at the end of the day, Dr. Steve Swager was still thinking of little Roberto. We found him and brought him in to sit in Steve’s

patient chair. All smiles, he was very happy as Steve looked at all of his teeth and pronounced him “muy bueno!” He left with his head proudly held high and a bit of a swagger, having seen the “doctore” and sat in the big chair like the big boys.

We’ll go back to Esperanza the end of April, this time with a real emphasis on hygiene (tooth cleaning). We do hope to get a couple of hygienists to join us, so we can all take part in a Tooth Cleaning Marathon. Due to the need for clinical work, we’ve had to put off hygiene for several visits, leaving some of the kids without having their teeth cleaned for several years. In addition, we also always need interpreters.

In addition, Dick and I and our son, Dan, are going to Imuris mid March to enjoy a Fiesta of some sort that we have been invited to by our new friend, Bernardo (of the clothing drive fame). We’ll give you a report on the exciting happenings there. We don’t know where this new friendship is leading us, but as the minister of a friend said,…”Follow the Soft Voice.” Good advice. The cacophony of the world around us can sometimes drown out that Still Small Voice giving us direction.

Thanks again to each of you for your interest, gifts and prayers. You are all very special people. *“The things we see now are here today and gone tomorrow. But the things we can’t see now will last forever.”* We can’t know now how we affect these little kids whose lives we touch at Esperanza. But it’s the Eternal Consequences of our gentle care for them that keep us going back.

Dick and Judy Martin

While we were eating, a Mexican balloon man came along and created fun balloons for each lady and the 2 teenagers. We enjoyed a nice dinner together and a beautiful sunset at a local restaurant on a hill above Rocky Point. The pantry looks pretty good for now,... but it takes a lot of food to feed 47 kids (some hungry teenagers) and 6 adults.

