



GENESIS

Learning Experiences for Children in Orphanagessm

Early Summer Issue, 05

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So much is happening

Spring has been full of challenges. Between the many groups that came to help and our on-going efforts to step up programs to better serve the staff of the orphanages, we have been busy on all fronts ... some examples;

- We operated our Amigos-Niños programs at Agua Viva and La Mission. At Agua Viva, we set up a complete tent city (not to mention digging the outhouses).
- Maricarmen, our Director of Operations/PR, started 'parenting' classes for orphanage staff through a cooperative effort with DIF (Mexico's family-social services).
- Rancho Genesis continued improvements in a partnership with Door of Faith Orphanage that is providing a great outreach effort to hundreds of orphanage children and Genesis volunteers.
- Greg and Patti settled into full swing as their move to Mexico brought them into intimate reach of Genesis operations.
- Genesis began working with Carlton Hills Christian Elementary School, Santee, California, through the San Diego Lutheran Synod to bring 3 geodesic domes to Rancho Genesis for use as dorms, classrooms, and resource space.
- Our employees went through ropes training generously offered to us by New Frontiers of Tennessee which also donated and installed the low ropes course.
- Genesis met all its fiscal and accountability requirements to be re-certified as a continuing 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.
- Gabi, our Executive Director, initiated an alignment for Mexican registration on a city, state, and federal level that will allow us to pursue Mexican governmental grants while planning for better fund-development within Mexican demographic regions.
- Genesis has been successfully raising funds to accomplish our matching grant goal set by the Sage Foundation (see below).
- Sam Dyck and Brett Florio are working hard on a newly updated and dynamic web site we hope will be launched soon (I'll keep you posted).
- Victoria Twigden is consolidating our remote data bases to a master so we can do a much better job of communicating with our friends.
- Genesis recruits new volunteers coming in from Canada, Washington, and Oregon for the summer (we'll share more next time).



We are getting there, but still need help

As many of you know, we sent out a letter asking for your support in meeting a matching grant from the Sage Foundation. I'm proud to say that we are at \$45,298 due to your generosity. That still leaves us with \$4,702 to raise by June 30th in order to receive the additional \$25,000 grant. This grant goes to support our programs here in Mexico that affect the lives of hundreds of orphanage children, orphanage staff, and those that come to serve.

According to Neil Postman, "Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see". Our third-world neighbor, Mexico, has very few choices to help children. Genesis positively affects children and adults on both sides of the border so our future is strong. How we interact now creates the next generation's vision for the world.

In Mexico, for orphaned and impoverished children, Genesis acts like a combination of Scouting, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, and any of the hundreds of other organizations on this side of the border that give children an opportunity to learn and grow. "**More than memories, changing lives**"sm applies to what Genesis strives to do for these children. These memories are created, shared, and experienced by those who come from the U.S. and Canada to participate with us. Our deepest thanks to each of you who have put the attainment of this goal within our reach!





Getting out Rancho Genesis makes learning come alive for those that visit us in Baja.

Volunteers provide the opportunity for the orphanage children to not only read about tidal ecosystems, but allow a sea anemone to close its tentacles around their fingers.

It is Genesis' goal to offer the opportunity for personal, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual growth for these children. Spring break saw several orphanage groups come down from Tijuana; the first time most of the children ever experienced life outside the confines of their inner city environment.



A letter from Patti

God is Faithful and Good (and, definitely has a sense of humor). Here we are living in Baja California, Mexico! If you had told me this a year ago – I would have said, “Oh, maybe someday” – not really meaning it :-)

Our new ‘5-year plan’ actually began many years ago. Living in San Diego, we had been working in the evenings, weekends, and vacations building Genesis Expeditions/Diez, A.C. in Mexico for several years, while working full-time elsewhere. The question remained, “When would we go full-time into this ministry?” After all, I didn’t want to ‘work’ the rest of my life. Then the change in the capital gains tax law went thru, and we knew it was time to sell our Point Loma home and begin the process of downsizing. We bought a smaller place in Scripps Ranch and then, in two short years, sold it.

Originally, I knew we would buy closer to the border as it would ‘not be practical’ for me to be in Mexico. Greg could commute! Hmm, lets think this through; working full time in ministry ... as a volunteer ... yet, paying property taxes in Southern California ... guess that won’t work! As we decided to quit our regular jobs in May 2003, ‘out of the blue’ God came through as good friends (as well as encouraging supporters) bought a ranch in San Diego county near the border. They made us an offer to live in the house temporarily.

Well, the beautiful property was 1-hour away from our friends, church, and activities and 2½-hours from Ensenada where Greg was commuting. Its location, off a long rural 2-way road (with a 2½-mile dirt road to the house) gave me the daily experience of living rurally. It was a beautiful place with horses, cattle, pond, natural vegetation (read, a bit dusty), while hot in the summer and cold in the winter. We lived there for 9 months. It was a very peaceful place of transition for both of us, and God was preparing me.

Today, we live 1½ hours away from our friends, church and activities and ½-hour from Ensenada in the valley community of La Mision, Mexico. There is a very nice 2-lane highway from the States to our turn-off, then, a short rural 2-way road to a 1½-mile dirt road to our sweet little Casa. It is hot in the summer and cold in the winter; it has horses, donkeys, and cattle wondering around (along with poultry, goats, pigs, etc.) and more dirt than grass ... it feels like home ... although not quite as peaceful.

We live on the grounds of the Door of Faith Orphanage that is home to over 100 children ranging in age from newborns to 22 years old. There is something about the wonderful sound of a child’s laughter that is not like anything else. It actually feels like a small village here, and Rancho

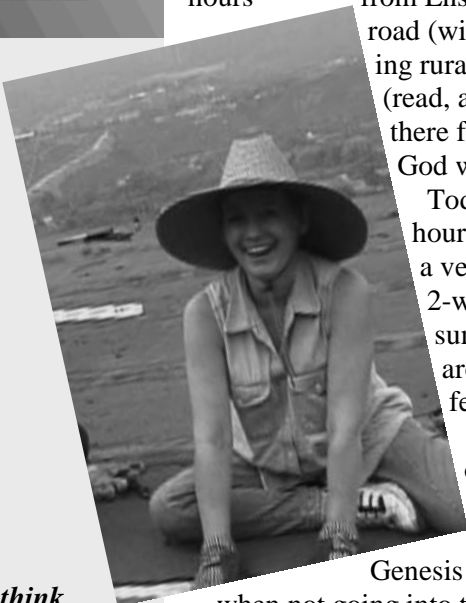
Genesis is just up the hill on the same property (where Greg can walk to work when not going into the office in Ensenada). Other than dust flying in the windows in the summer, no heat in the house so far this winter, and a rooster waking me very early ... I am adjusting quite nicely.

We have definitely been blessed through this whole process. Many wonderful people have been placed in our lives and we feel very loved and supported. Mostly, God has shown us daily that He will always meet our needs. ‘Needs’ may not always be what we think we want. When we pray for His Will in our lives, He will answer – and we may be surprised :-o.

Many Blessings to you,
Patti

P.S. I’ve come to realize, I will be working the rest of my life, but in a different ‘Light.’

“Hmm, lets think this through; working full time in ministry ... as a volunteer ... yet, paying property taxes in Southern California ... guess that won’t work! “



Ok, why don't chickens

Have you ever been surrounded by over a hundred children doing a dozen different events at one time? No, you say well, what about 325 children doing two dozen?

That is exactly what is about to happen at Foxploration in Rosarito as Genesis sponsors a special day for orphanage children in conjunction with Fox Studios on June 4th. Yes, the same studios that filmed the Titanic, Master and Commander, Pearl Harbor, Deep Blue Sea, etc.

For several years, Genesis has had a special relationship with Foxploration to bring orphanage children to the studios in order to give them a greater view of the world and their future.

Questions fly all day like, "Why don't chickens fly like pelicans?" ... no pun intended of course. Then there is; "Did you know that if you put pieces of toilet paper in the water as fast as you can while you keep hitting the handle" or, "If it takes air to pop the ball out, why can't I just slap my hands on" You get the picture.

For this kind of event, Genesis seeks sponsorships to cover the cost of everything from snacks to transportation. Gabi was on the local Ensenada radio and television channel to promote our need for help and we are receiving donations for child sponsorships at \$10 per child (our average cost). To date, some of our helpful sponsors have been Grupo Amigas de la Caridad, Bajamar, Grupo Cuesta, and Materiales Loyola.

Genesis commits to these events with the faith that it will all work out. By the time you receive this Newsletter, the event will be over but the costs will still be left. The nice part is that any money we receive to support the event also goes towards meeting the Sage Grant goal (see first page) ... in that case, every dollar raised is like giving \$1.50 pretty cool!



"Questions fly all day (unlike chickens that don't fly like pelicans) No pun intended ..."



Unplugging to get charged

If there is one thing we notice here at Genesis, it is that by the end of each week it is hard to say good-bye.

At home everyday, technology brings the world to our door step. Unfortunately, that is where we often leave it. Relationships across a nation, much less countries, become articles we read in the paper, see on television, or hear on the radio. Then there is the internet, palm sized 'everything's', cell phones, and interactive games (which usually limits the interaction to one).

When you unplug the electronic umbilical cord you'll find a planet that is majestic, diverse, immensely large despite quick travel, and in desperate need of you! Yes, we live in a world of problems and sorrow but also of limitless potential and hope. The world changes every time you step out and care for others.

A young man just left us who, when he first arrived, had decided that we really did not mean for him to pay attention to and be responsible for a child every day, to put away his game set, to not wear his headphones constantly, and help serve meals. By day two he had decided it was better to watch over his niño rather than explain why the youngster was not happy. By day four he was being met every morning with a smile. By day five he and his niño could not be separated. On the last day, he realized that he had been given much more than he gave. He had forgotten about his iPod, had pointed out the Big Dipper (and the small one), noticed he actually- kind of-enjoyed the camp fires, learned someone could completely trust him coming down a mountain, and that the week was over his greatest problem now was, how could he say good-bye?



Needs and Wishes

- \$30 per month buys propane or helps with:
- Paper products: (plates, plastic utensils, toilet paper, towels, napkins, cups, etc.)
- Cleaning supplies: (bathrooms, kitchen, etc.)
- First Aid materials: (Tylenol, band-aids, ointment, etc.)
- Arts-Sciences projects: (crayons, glue, paper, microscopes, lab equip., etc.)
- Recreational equipment: (beach toys, jump ropes, balls, games, packs, etc.)
- Kitchen goods: (soap, can goods, spices, sugar, etc.)

- \$59.00 sends a child to camp or provides a:
- Costco card for purchases.
- Home Depot card for purchases.
- Monthly 'Helping Hands' support gift.

- \$90 pays for a bunk bed or contributes to:
- Tools: (hand tools, small power tools, etc.)
- Playground: (swing set, teeter-totter, jungle gym, soccer goals, tetherball, etc.)
- Office supplies: (printing paper, ink, etc.)

- Prayers for the orphanage children, staff, Rancho Genesis, and volunteers.
- Prayers for our financial supporters and trip participants.
- Memories that are Priceless.

If you would rather send a check to help us, please use the attached envelope and/or send it to our P.O. Box. *In the U.S. and Canada, please make checks out to Genesis Expeditions, Inc.*

In Mexico, please make checks out to Genesis Diez, A.C.

Thanks so much!



*"More Than Memories,
Changing Lives"sm*

Since our programs require a variety of materials for life skill, recreational, and other educational learning activities for the children (as well as feeding, housing, and caring for them at Rancho Genesis) we would appreciate your help with the needs listed here.



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