



From the President:

Genesis Diez, A.C. is celebrating its 10th anniversary as an active non-profit in Mexico this year. We have a lot to be thankful for, as we have truly been blessed by the opportunities God has provided to us in and through the niños of Baja.

As 2009 comes to a close, Genesis wishes to offer thanks to its supporters, whose generosity allows Genesis to continue to change the lives of orphanage, migrant and disabled children in Baja as well as the lives of those who serve them. Genesis has seen and endured the impacts of violence, sickness and a hurting economy. Despite these challenges, Genesis did not turn away any orphanage that wanted to attend camp this summer.

Genesis Diez staff and volunteer teams were never threatened by the drug cartel violence; however the U.S. press' focus on the drug cartel violence in Mexico border regions contributed to a decline in U.S. group trips, and the trip fees, to Rancho Genesis. It would not be an overstatement to say the work Genesis does fights against the cartels. Genesis' purpose remains to provide educational enrichment to the niños of Baja. Through camps at Rancho Genesis and other field trips and activities, Genesis provides the niños with visions of futures brighter than those involving crime.

Swine flu concerns precluded some large events this year but Genesis remains committed to reaching out to serve more children in more ways in Baja. For example, Genesis is in the process of opening a home for disabled children under the supervision of new Helping Hands missionary Mark Neafie.

Genesis continues striving to deepen its relationship with the migrant children and communities, many of whom have suffered intensely as a result of the economic downturn. The Genesis staff has shown great flexibility in dealing with a tightened budget, becoming even more efficient to serve as many niños as possible. We have also benefited from some new partnerships with groups supplying food and other in-kind donations.

While much has been accomplished in 2009, more still needs to be done. I had the privilege of attending a conference in Tijuana in October hosted by the wife of Mexican President Felipe Calderon. Present at the conference were government officials and representatives of many organizations that address the needs of children. The conference focus was children's rights; the Mexican government's commitment to improving the lives of the country's children was clearly evident. I noticed too how there were not any other organizations that do what Genesis does. As we look forward to 2010, we recognize the many new opportunities now achievable for Genesis in helping these children.

In the spirit of giving, join me today in making a gift to Genesis International Orphanage Foundation. Whether you give \$500 or \$50, we will work to ensure your gift is wisely used to change the life of a niño in Baja. We thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you and yours a safe Merry Christmas!

David Balfour  
President, GIOF Board of Directors

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*Learning Experiences for Orphanage and Migrant Children*  
*Experiencias de Aprendizaje para Niños de Casas Hogar y Emigrantes*