

MEETING THE NEEDS OF OTHERS (PART 9)

THIS YEAR WE CELEBRATE A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF MINISTRY (1972-2022)

One last Golden Anniversary chapter to write. One of the greatest joys we have shared with our supporters are the children we raised. Another joy was taking some of those Mexican young people on tour to the United States. We visited churches in Texas, Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota, Illinois, Church Camps, mission programs and more. They sang special music and gave their testimonies as to how their lives were different all because so many gave and believed in them.

You watched us receive children from age 5 and up and even younger to see them graduate from the University. Today some are married and have children of their own. Which means that we broke the cycle of abuse and poverty. Some are accountants, graphic designers, preachers, English teachers and even one of them lives in Australia, who would have believed that was possible.

So many stories could be told about the successes we had, but then again the other side of the coin tells another story of the children we couldn't save. But we never lose hope. Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

We do what we can with the time we have with every child, every family, every neighbor, every lost soul looking for answers as to why. Our only response is that God loves them. The decision is their's alone to accept or reject the invitation. We are proud and happy to have saved so many, but know the work is not over yet. The last four years have been a challenge and we thank those that have supported and stood faithfully with us. One last story to share. It's a book in its self but I will try to give a condensed version.

One of the most overwhelming events of the ministry happened on February 23 and 24, 2001. Before I proceed though, you need a little background. At age 2, Jorge was abandoned by his mother, left completely alone to fend for himself along with his brother. The next 5 years of his life were very difficult. Then Casa de Niños came into his life at age 7. His life changed dramatically. Love, security, food, soccer, the bible and so many other things became a constant for him. On June 14, 1992, he was baptized. Even though he was only 10, he was more mature in his faith than most adults. Soon after his baptism his mother came to our door to take Jorge back. With boldness in his heart and a deep love for God, this was Jorge's response, "I've forgiven you, God has forgiven me, but this is my home and my family". She left and Jorge never saw her again. Jorge not only grew in stature, but his desire to be the best Christian just glowed everyday through his smile. It never bothered him he was 2 years behind everyone else in school, he excelled in all areas of his life. He was class president, leader of school projects and team captain of every sport he participated in. He loved church camp, especially participating in dramas and singing special music.

He was preparing to enter the University at age 19, with just a few months of high school left. He wanted to become a Christian counselor.

On December 24, 2000, Jorge, along with Mari, sang a special song at church called "Gracias" - "Thank You" by Ray Boltz. Jose was baptized that evening and Jorge said a prayer for Jose "Lord use Jose for your Kingdom". Little did we know 2 months later, February 23, 2001, Jorge would be killed in an accident just blocks from home. The day of his burial, February 24, 2001, as each shovel of dirt covered his casket, we sang hymns and choruses of praise and worship. As quickly as he came into our lives he left us, but the memories he gave us are treasures we hold dearly. Later as I was gathering things up in his room I came across a verse highlighted in his Bible "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." He fully understood that all the treasures of this life were not worth holding on to, but eternal life with Jesus was life's goal. If we could write a phrase that has exemplified Casa de Niños / Emanuel Mexico Mission for the last 50 years it would be: "MAKE DISCIPLES".

As our Golden Anniversary book closes, another new book will soon begin. Another 50 plus chapters await us with expectations unlimited. More letters to write, more goals to set and most importantly more souls to save. Join us in celebrating 50 years of ministry and a new journey of preaching, teaching, sharing, feeding and loving.

Go therefore into all the world and make disciples.
Emanuel Mexican Mission

Jose, David and Sheri

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Field Director of EMM

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