

Promise UPDATE



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Finding JOY in the Simple Things

Excerpt from writings of Barb Kofski, Missionary to Costa Rica

It was my second trip to Hogar de Vida in San Andres, Guatemala. The longer we traveled, the higher into the mountains we climbed. The farther from civilization we ventured the more it appeared as though we had crossed over to another world. Amidst the vivid greenery of beautiful scenery was a family's laundry baking in the sun, and families shuffling along the side of the road outfitted in colorful indigenous dress—mother balancing a bundle of firewood on her head and

Hogar de Vida truly is a sanctuary; a place of security and love; a place where the cycle of poverty ends and these children have hope and a future. But most importantly it is a place where each has the opportunity to hear of and experience the agape Love of the Lord and invite Him into their hearts. In Christ there is hope and a future!

The next morning we were greeted with squeals of delight and chattering. Following a cookie bake, they were eagerly awaiting the special activities planned for them. The only problem was I didn't feel I had any special activities planned. Embarrassed at how lame my "activity" was, I brought out the crayons and asked the kids if they wanted to draw a picture for their sponsor. I watched in wonderment. Each child went to work creating their heart-felt masterpiece using every color imaginable. Picasso would have been impressed. With their drawings completed they eagerly poured through the coloring books I had found in the storage room. In a short time the table was filled with colored pages and the bell was clanging calling the kids to lunch. As they hurried off, their "Muchas Gracias" echoed in my heart. How could crayons and a few coloring books bring such joy? I was humbled by their simple enjoyment and gratitude.

children toting a parcel or basket seemingly too large for their petite size. I felt we had stepped back in time. But no, this was present day and how these precious people existed. They toiled day after day, scratching out a barely subsistent life with little or no hope for anything better. What is their hope?

My pondering these things precisely coincided with our arrival at Hogar de Vida. There, cheering our arrival were 30 energetic children. Here there was hope and a future of Eternal Life because of Jesus Christ. Upon entering, it was evident that



Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

From the Children of Promise office team—back, left to right: Kathie, Jeanie, Mary. Front row, left to right, Leslie and Judy.



THANK YOU to all who prayed for the children in the Pouk Siem Reap home in Cambodia.

Not knowing the consequences, the cook purchased green vegetables from the market which had been treated with a chemical to enhance the green color. The chemical poisoned the children and several were close to death, but all are now home from the hospital and doing well. Unlike the U.S., the Cambodia government did not question anyone about the poisoning and nothing was done.

Prayer Update . . .

Children and workers at Shadow of His Wings, Guatemala, have recovered.

Continue to pray for the children at Home of Peace in Peru who continue to be treated for tuberculosis.

The children and house parent in the Barcelona, VZ home have recovered.



The great extravagant activity of the week—a six-foot in diameter kiddie pool. Judging by the kids' delight you would have thought it was an Olympic size pool. Did you know you can fit 11 school-age kids in a kiddie pool? They fit and had a blast.



Our donors are the livelihood of the ministry. It is the sacrificial giving of each one that helps us reach and care for orphaned and destitute children. Your support is vital to the success of this ministry. Would you like to see more beautiful smiles full of hope? Your special year-end gift will help insure that hope will stay alive.

YOU ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!