

Give Thanks to God!

Saracoff Sentinel/
Team Tijuana

Thanksgiving 2009

God is so good...in this edition we want to give Him thanks for the Body of Christ...our Team Tijuana leaders who serve society's outcasts selflessly with God's love...the many volunteers on both sides of the border who give generously of time, talent & treasure, the Prayer Warriors, the men, women and children like Lili & Feliciano in this letter...& YOU!

Points for Prayer

- **Fire at Refugio—strength & wisdom for Pastor Chuy as he leads. Care/comfort for elderly.**
- **Funds for Christmas bonuses for Team TJ & Refugio/Esperanza staff.**
- **Border crossings as we experience increased rules & restrictions, going both directions.**
- **Pressures & challenges the leaders of the various programs face.**
- **Overcomers' Club—local churches to embrace rehab graduates.**
- **Janette & Bianey—grads of women's center, staying on to help others.**
- **Health of children, esp. Lupita who faces amputation of her foot.**

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Thank God for Josefina!

Josefina, a Mexican member of Team TJ, has come alongside Kathy the last 2 years, traveling with her to Esperanza and Campo de Fe. Josefina not only provides support, she adds enthusiasm, vision and a radiant presence as she expresses her life of faith in God. Despite a year spent in fruitless job search, she says with a smile, "God has work for me in His kingdom." An example of this is Lili. Some time ago Josefina came across a pregnant woman crying. She asked her if she was ok and spent the next 6 hours with her. She gave the woman, Lili, her cell #, and encouraged her to call, day or night. On another occasion when Josefina met Lili, there was physical evidence of a beating. Lili refused to acknowledge the gravity of the situation. Much prayer went up for Lili.

In the middle of the night a call came—Lili had been so badly beaten she'd lost the baby. Josefina took her to

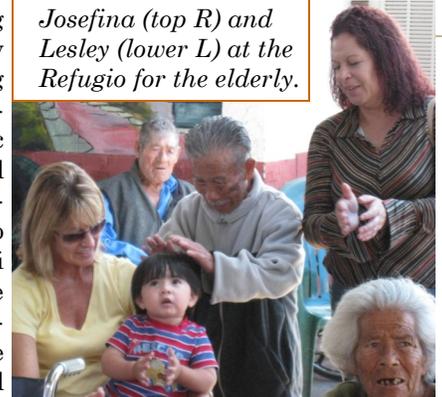
the hospital, staying day and night by her side, reading scriptures and playing Christian music to comfort Lili and her mom. She encouraged them to trust in God. Lili died of hemorrhage from internal injuries, but before she died she accepted Christ.

Lili is just one of the many people Josefina has gone out of her way to help in time of crisis. Even though the cost is high in terms of stress, God has blessed Josefina with the knowledge that He has used her to walk many people into his kingdom, including Lili's mom and a doctor who attended Lili.

Josefina's own mom died days before she could travel to see her. She comforts others with the comfort she's received from God (2 Cor. 1:3-4)

When Josefina heard we wanted to begin an "Overcomers' Club" to

Josefina (top R) and Lesley (lower L) at the Refugio for the elderly.



support and further disciple people who are going out of the rehab centers, she put legs under the plan by encouraging girls to tell their stories, their dreams for the future, to give her phone #s or contact info, and to call her anytime. Just the other day, she travelled by bus across Tijuana to bring beans and rice to a young graduate who was in need and had called her. Though she has no steady income, she shares anything she gets with others in need. Her cell phone is covered through LAM, but her prayers cover us.

Late-breaking News: Fire at Refugio Makes Front Page



TV and headlines in the local Tijuana papers blared the news that 134 "abuelitos" (elderly) were saved from fire on Friday the 13th. "Fue un milagro" It was a miracle that all were safely evacuated when part of the refugio caught fire. The emergency shines light on the plight of elderly abandoned by both society and government. Pray that Tijuana will respond generously and that the needed electrical rewiring can now be done right. The day before the fire I (Kathy) had delivered a load of food, my old guitar case and guitar strings for

Luis, a helper at the Refugio. His guitar, with new strings and case and his journal were burned up in the fire. (Want to donate a guitar?) Please pray for the elderly, now temporarily residing at Esperanza Rehab and Campo de Fe.

Feliciano goes Home

by Carolyn Bickford



Feliciano (Felix) with Greg, Feliciano's mother and sister at his memorial service



Feliciano came to Campo de Fe (CdF) 4 months ago. He'd been turned away from another center because he had AIDS, but Flor, the director of CdF, welcomed him with open arms. Although he was sick, he pitched in to help other residents more disabled than he. His love for singing and ability to harmonize made the Tuesday songfest a joy to us all.

As the weather grew colder, Felix's thoughts turned to his home in Chiapas and his mother, whom he hadn't seen in 12 years. He wanted to ask her forgiveness. He asked the church which brings CdF residents to their Sunday services to collect money for his bus ticket home. But before he could go, he went into a coma and was hospitalized. We thought he would die any day.

When Flor finally was able to contact them, Felix's mother and sister left immediately on a 3-day bus ride. They sang and prayed with us at CdF shortly after they arrived and before going to the hospital to see Felix. He was alert enough to recognize them. Although unable to

speaking, he and his mom were able to forgive each other. She told him her church in Chiapas had joined her in praying for him during the 12 years when she didn't know where he was or how to reach him.

Felix died 6 days later. The cremation was paid for through LAM. Flor's church planned a memorial service and over 60 gathered around the beds at CdF. The message focused on how none of us know when we will die. Felix had prepared and was ready because he trusted in Jesus Christ. Several people shared how Felix had impacted their lives.

What an amazing story of reconciliation! It is also proof of the power of prayer—his mother's for so many years of silence and all the prayer raised for him by friends on both sides of the border. We are reminded how crucial it is to have a place like Campo de Fe ("Faith Camp") where the people nobody cares for can be valued, respected and loved as brothers in Christ.



What Are We Thankful For?



- Churches (on both sides of the border), organizations & individuals who gave generously to help over 70 school children.
- Volunteers who drive 100+ miles weekly to a food bank, cover the costs and bring 1000 lbs of food for the Refugio and Esperanza. Also for the letter permitting us to import the food. And for strong backs!
- Groups (Rotary Club, nursing students, church youth groups) who have overcome obstacles (fear, passports, negative press) to come and help.
- Recent grant for construction at Campo de Fe and funds from a Korean church for propane fridge & generator, and solar ovens.
- Carolyn Bickford, who sold her home and came to Chula Vista to work alongside Team TJ. She brings a bounty of skills & vision.
- Recent photos that Robby Chaney took for LAM's magazine/website & for his testimony to God's deliverance from addiction.
- Hope Without Boundaries, a San Diego-based non-profit started in 2008, to help us reach across boundaries with love and compassion. Check out the website at www.HopeWithoutBoundaries.com
- Health and healing and our families. Greg's in Indianapolis visiting his sister as we write this, so Kathy and Carolyn are doing this letter.

Thank God for Friends!

By Kathy

A fellow missionary recently remarked that we have a gift for drawing people in to help us. If so, it's a lovely gift from God who knows we can't do it alone. A group of friends who help a lot are the board of Hope Without Boundaries. One member, Lesley, joins me every Tuesday to visit Campo de Fe and Esperanza women's rehab. Others come to make monthly breakfasts in Tijuana, do construction and PR on both sides of the border and oversee the various micro-enterprise projects...all this with a limited knowledge of Spanish, but unlimited love and generosity.