

SARACOFF SENTINEL / TEAM TIJUANA Summer 2010

*“Who can be compared with the LORD our God who is enthroned on high?
He stoops to look down on heaven and on earth.
He lifts the poor from the dust and the needy from the garbage dump.
He sets them among princes, even the princes of his own people!”*
Psalm 113 5-7 (New Living Bible)

“Who can compare to the Lord our God?”

In our weekly visits to Esperanza Women’s Rehab we focus on different names & attributes of God. Lately I’ve seen Him be our **Good Shepherd** who leads us to fertile places to renew our vision and strength. He is **Jehovah Jirah, Provider** of material and spiritual blessings. He’s the **Gardener** and we are the branches He prunes and makes fruitful. He is **Faithful and True**.

Some examples of His provision lately include:

- Juanita Saracoff’s invitation to attend the Echo conference in MN, resulting in Resources, Networking and Vision!
- Esperanza Bracelets and Tijuana T-Shirts (new cottage industries we’re helping start up. Website coming soon!)
- Truckload of 100+ food boxes from Koreans
- Trailer-load of 35 hospital mattresses for Refugee.
- Dental equipment donated to the new dentist.
- Lentils sprouting in Carretas
- 30 new Exercise Mats given to the Esperanza Rehab center for women

—by Kathy

“He stoops down and looks at heaven and earth...”

Each time God provides answers to prayer, we are made more aware of his interest in the issues we pray for. Often we are at a loss for words about what we see—the hunger, poverty, broken families, violence, destruction of the earth, and people going their own way. But we are assured that the Spirit intercedes for the matters that burden our hearts with groans that cannot be uttered. (Rom 8) Kathy and I attended a conference in St. Paul, MN that encouraged us as we heard about the work world wide and particularly in Africa. An African town, when asked to describe their vision, responded, “we want this to be such a good place to live that our children and grandchildren will stay here”. Then the speaker shared the work they helped the community do to improve their food and water resources and to combat indoor pollution and lack of firewood.

—by Carolyn Bickford

“He lifts the poor from the dust and the needy from the garbage dump...”

This verse was beautifully illustrated recently in Carretas, a community built near the site of a discontinued garbage dump! Chela, who heads up this community center, asked Aureliano, the dad of 2 of the students she helps, if he could put up a fence to keep the goats out of the garden she has planted to help feed the children. He was more than willing to stop his daily forays to the dump in search of saleable scrap metal so he could do the fencing. (The money for his labor was funded by a supporter of the Team TJ work.)

Currently Graciela (Chela) is working with 26 elementary and secondary students who are all from families of severely limited resources. Team Tijuana also helps sponsor about a dozen more kids whose parents serve in other ministries. Our goal is to break the cycle of generational poverty by giving these children an education and a vision of what they can contribute to their community and country as they discover and develop their God-given abilities.

We are proud to honor the children of Carretas for faithfully attending school. The term ends—and we will have a party. As the new funding year rolls around, we are sharing what the costs will be for next year and seeking sponsors for each child able to attend.

Mexican schools require uniforms for the students and at least one of these students was expelled for not having the proper uniform. We do not want that to happen again, so we are requesting help from you to raise the needed funds (\$120 for uniforms and fees for primary, \$170 for secondary).



The children of Carretas had fun stamping flowers on T-shirts for Mothers Day. Mary Proctor, a board member, took pictures, and printed them up so each mom got a framed photo of her children.

Kathy's Slow Journey

About 15 years ago my mother-in-law, Juanita Saracoff, came to Tijuana and demonstrated making a wading pool garden. She gave me a packet of Moringa Seeds. I was a new mom with young children so I gave the seeds to a neighbor with a ranch, filed away the papers and encouraged the men in our local rehab to take care of the garden.

At the conference we learned that Compelling Information and Life-Changing Skills are needed before Attitudes can change and Adaptations made. I'd been given the information, but it wasn't until years later that I would actually develop the skills and change my attitude. I thank God for Carolyn who came and helped me start my own garden, plant a new batch of Moringa seeds and then pushed me to help our Mexican friends plant their own gardens. She taught us how to sprout lentils (5 x the nutrition of cooked) and now Chela has Carretas children teaching their moms how to sprout seeds. Our next goal is to plant trees.

What I'm saying is that my own journey has been a slow one—so I need to be patient with others. But I'm moving forward in improving my family's nutrition and being a better steward of creation. As I change, I'm eager to bring others along in this exciting journey. Prayer is a vital component. I did not know that Carolyn had been praying for years for trees for Mexico. Companionship—servant leadership—is another priceless piece of the puzzle.

We are thrilled with the new garden flourishing at Esperanza Women's Rehab Center and gardening efforts at a sister center in Puerto Peñasco. We are identifying homes for the



moringa trees we are raising—these will provide seeds for oil and for water purification as well as spinach-like leaves that are full of mineral-rich nutrition.

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Dental Ministry Growth

If you have been following our newsletters you know that one of the new ministries we have started has been a dental ministry. It is all about starting a dental business that would benefit the children of Tijuana and also be a true sustaining business. Its main target clients are disadvantaged Tijuana children. Many of these kids have worse teeth than you can imagine.

Six broken teeth and six cavities per mouth were typical of the worst we saw. Our survey started with examining the teeth of 40 people from Carretas. Thirty of these had major dental problems. By finding initial donations totaling \$3000 we have been able to have the funding to give basic exams, cleaning, X-rays, and some initial work on the 30. We have finished the initial phase on 18 of the 30 and hope to finish with the others in June. Our findings are that we will need another \$7000 to finish the job on all these kids. If you would like to help one child with their teeth a donation of \$233 would prevent them from tooth loss and further health hazards, including heart problems caused by bacterial infection from the mouth invading the rest of the body.

If you are part of a church group or civic group that would like to help please contact us.

Also pray for our team that we will be able to equip them with the material and training to encourage the families of these children to continue with good dental care once their children are treated.



—by Greg

Pray for TIJUANA

- Restoration of safety and order
- Reconciliation in churches & communities, families and with God
- Renewal of environment so that people can have clean water and can grow healthy food
- Sponsorships for school children
- Support for dental work for children
- Success for Esperanza bracelets and TJTees

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