

# He is Risen!



Saracoff Sentinel/Team Tijuana

Spring 2011

## Points for Prayer

- Praise God for those who helped sponsor students and request His help in finding



more sponsors for the many children in need.

- God's healing touch on broken families; may His love flow through us to others who are hurting.
- Funding as our ministry, like many, feels the pinch of these tough economic times.



## People Needed:

- Someone to help with marketing for beads of hope and other cottage industries.
- Someone willing to organize fund raising events for Team Tijuana

## HOLD THAT LINE!

This is a popular football cheer and an encouragement to the home team. I was mulling over some similarities in that situation to what our Team Tijuana is experiencing right now.

It is no coincidence that the border is often call 'La Linea' (the line) by our Mexican friends. It is a sharp dividing point between poverty and opportunity: meager existence and the 'good life'. There is a war going on in our own backyard. With over 24,000 people dying on the border between here and Texas in the last four years (more than have died in Iraq and Afghanistan combined) we as American Christians need to push back harder against the evil of violence, human trafficking, drugs and gangs, that exists just across the line.

How does it go? "Push 'Em Back- Push 'Em Back- WAY BACK!"

Part of this warfare is spiritual, consecrating our lives to holy living and harmonizing our actions with other Christians for effective witness and action. Push back prayers and coordinated action are called for. Part of this warfare is practical. As we told you in our last letter, the Lord is blessing the micro finance program which provides jobs to Mexicans eliminating the need to crash the border. One example is Salvador- an ex coyote who is now employed in his own business and has the ability to share his own experience of God's love both practically and spiritually.

Ciudad Juarez now ranks amongst the deadliest cities in the world, with over 6800 people killed in the past two years, according to the US State Department. The Esperanza rescue mission there was closed for a while, following the gang style execution of 4 people in a neighboring center. Now even with the violence continuing they have re-opened the Esperanza mission.

One of the faithful graduates, who braved the streets each day to come to work in that no-man's land of Juarez was caught in the midst of a shoot out. Thank God Dominique was not physically hurt; however, Satan had a more devious plan. Upon his return to work, Dominique was unjustly accused of being one of the shooters.

Pastor Javier, the director of Esperanza Rehabilitation center and our team president took off for Juarez this morning. Pray for Javier that he will be successful in his defense of Domingo and that justice will be served with the true shooters being caught. Pray for the center workers and Javier that their lives will be guarded from above. We are engaged in a great spiritual battle and though we trust the Lord for his protection, we ask you not to forget to pray, today and every day. Help Him and us Push 'Em Back!



Border Map

## Our Mission:

To show the love of God to the poor and disadvantaged in Tijuana, Mexico, by raising funds to train, mentor and network. We do micro business and business development to raise standards of living. We fight the prevailing ambience of corruption by teaching ethical excellence and hard work. We currently work with Carretas Community Center, Esperanza Rehab Center and Campamento de Fe.





Josefina; Prayer Warrior



Ramon; A New Beginning

## Truly Willing to Sacrifice

Josefina could write a book about desperate people God has brought across her path. "Why me?" she asks. Because God has filled her with love and compassion, and she's made herself available to help anyone in need. Though her own resources are limited, she shares it all from her heart. In a world where most of us are looking out for #1, Josefina reflects the self-denial and love of Jesus.

Many of us know in an academic way about the problems on the boarder. We read about it in the papers but it hits home when it affects somebody you know. Josefina, who accompanies Kathy every Monday and is always punctual, was late. She eventually arrived with a tragic story. Thursday night a family had appeared at her church, just arrived from Guadalajara with illusions of crossing the border to find a better life. The pastor tried to discourage them from crossing illegally, but that night found them waiting near "la linea" for the "coyote". Before he showed up, however, a random gunfight broke out and a bullet struck the husband. The church helped pay to have his body returned to Guadalajara. Josefina was late having just put the widow and 3 year old child on the bus home having opened her studio apartment to them for the weekend. Dreams shattered, lives shattered....

*While many of us couldn't contemplate dealing with the grief of strangers, Josefina says "With every experience like this I just feel more love and compassion." It is people like this who take the light into dark places, who are at the forefront of 'Holding the Line.'*



## Roses & Thorns



Drunk and stumbling across the Via Rapida in Tijuana, Ramon was struck by a whizzing car a few weeks ago. He woke up confused in the General Hospital to find that he had broken his right shoulder, right leg and knee. The nurses told him God had spared his life, but all he wanted was another drink to ease the pain and help his hangover. Since he had no family nearby, he was sent to "Campamento de Fe", a home for disabled men and one of the places that I visit every week to sing and pray.

Yesterday after we sang one of the men's favorite songs, "Walking with Jesus," Ramon told me, "I wanna walk" --referring to his bed-ridden condition. I had read Isaiah 55:8 that morning (*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD."*) "You are going to get better," I told Ramon, "but meanwhile, why do you think you are here?" Ramon had been giving that some thought; the same day he was hit by the car, another not-so-fortunate drunk was run over and killed on the same expressway. He's realizing that what seems like a terrible thing that happened might really be God's gracious intervention in his life. (*"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways...my word will accomplish what I desire."* Isaiah 55:9,11)

God doesn't just want Ramon back on his feet, returning to his old ways; He wants Ramon to be walking with Jesus in abundant life. He brought Ramon to just the right place to find it! Campo de Fe, run by Flor Morales, restores lives by giving physical care, a sense of family, and hope in the Lord Jesus Christ who died for us so our lives could be saved.

**Latin America Mission**

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Let us hear from you!

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