

Saracoff Sentinel/Team Tijuana

Updates from the field

Summer 2011

Points for Prayer

- Pray that God will send the funds necessary to provide uniforms and school supplies for the children we help.
- Ask God to encourage Josefina as she faces difficult family and financial situations. Her vision is to help start Moms in Touch prayer groups in TJ.
- Pray for microfinance groups—that trust will develop and that the lending budget will grow.
- Praise God for a refreshing and rejuvenating trip of over 8000 miles, accident-free.
- Please pray for healing for Arnulfo, a faithful Mexican friend suffering from cancer.
- Praise God for Kaitlyn who helped edit this letter!



School Uniforms

Would you like to help some very needy children in Tijuana stay in school? We have committed to raising \$4000 for uniforms for 40 kids, but so far only have \$1300. \$100 will outfit one child.

Summer Ramblings



Greg, Anna, and I were on the road for two months this summer, traveling as far east as Indianapolis. One fear I had was that everything would fall apart in Tijuana during our absence, but Elias, Napoleon, Chela, Javier and Lidia, Flor and the others did great! We were impressed by their resourcefulness and teamwork. They kept things running smoothly and even exceeded our expectations in creatively funding the budget.

So, there was little to fear as we traveled. We spent June with our son, Ian, and Greg's sister, Tanya. Ian is currently a sophomore at the Art Institute of Indianapolis. We enjoyed a few picnics with him at the local art museum and gardens. Anna spent time with Aunt Tanya shopping for bargains and cooking.

On July 4th, we headed north to see friends, family and supporters across the Midwest. We celebrated my nephew's wedding and enjoyed time with extended family. God met me in my fears by orchestrating a series of gatherings which allowed us to see more friends and supporters than we expected.



One main goal of our trip was to communicate and pray with supporters about our ministry budget deficit.



One of the churches we visited was conducting a series on the Psalms and challenged us to memorize Psalm 34. I love this Psalm because verse 3 was on our wedding invitation, but verse 4 stood out for me this summer when I found myself facing a mountain of unreasonable fears: *"I sought the Lord and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears."* I claimed His promise. He's provided with perfect timing over and over again, despite my doubts and fears. So many of you who read this have been part of His answers. I hope you, too, see victory

through God's Word in this next season. Blessings—Kathy

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.*



Chela and Mario (L, rear) work 6 days a week with children of all ages and their families, offering a number of programs including English, health, gardening, and Christian discipleship.



Women from one of the micro-finance groups meet to discuss strategies and celebrate growth. Praise God for his success with this venture in the past five months.

Crazy Days

For Josefina, Friday began with her usual hour of prayer at 5 am. At 10 am, there was a knock at the door—a stranger from Acapulco asking for help from Josefina's church.

The visitor, Carolina, was searching for her 14-year-old daughter and 2 classmates. The girls were offered "good-paying jobs in Guadalajara" and had gotten into a vehicle with Tijuana plates. When the girls never returned from school, the parents began looking for them. What possessed the mother to head for a church to get oriented to Tijuana can only be God's hand! Josefina's pastor began making phone calls and Josefina welcomed Carolina into her home.

By 7 pm, the pastor called to say the police had found a hotel room with several teenage girls. Could Carolina and Josefina come identify them? "Let's pray first," said the pastor. Carolina agreed, "I trust God and sense His peace here." Josefina could see her peace, even in the agonizing uncertainty.

The girls, unharmed and unguarded, were quickly rescued. The girls likely were taken with the intention of selling them into prostitution.

Twelve hours after the knock at the door, Carolina and the 3 girls were ready to go home. They had no money, so the police and the pastor split the bus fare.

Only God could unite police, a pastor, a praying mother and a listening servant to effect an amazing rescue in a timely manner. What the enemy intended for evil, God used as a demonstration of his attentive care. Ps 34 says, *"the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, his ears are attentive to their cries..."*

Josefina, a serious prayer warrior on our Tijuana Team, says that God longs to use YOU, too, to show His love to someone in need near you. He's just looking for availability.



Micro Finance Shows Graphic Growth

Five months ago we had only 2 surviving active micro finance loans out to help the poor of Tijuana develop businesses to support their families. Many naysayers had doubted the viability of micro finance ventures in Tijuana due to the transience of the population and the difficulty of developing trust within a group. We almost started to believe them since we had little to show after 3 years of effort.

Our first two loans were suffering setbacks. They were bigger loans, to a water company and a donut shop; both are still hanging on by the skin of their teeth.

Our only hope was that God would do a miracle. In faith, I had hired a Christian hospital administrator just over a year ago, who had lost his job when his ministry closed. It would take over a year of developing his trust and abilities, plus writing and processing the paperwork to form MPN—"Mi Primero Negocio" (My First Business). Many thought I had lost my mind investing in this young man for a year before we had any results, but I could see God moving. We got our miracle and now over 100 women have loans from MPN. It is amazing that no MPN weekly loan payments have been missed. They borrow in 4 month periods and we reward faithful payments with bigger second loans. We have been so successful that we now are running out of money for new loans. We soon will have all the designated funds for micro finance loaned out (\$80,000 dollars). We would like to help more women build up their small businesses; please pray for additional funds so we can do just that. Praise God for His strength in hard times. These loans offer hope to Mexican families in the midst of a challenging economic season. Keep Praying—Greg

Latin America Mission

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Please indicate:

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www.lam.org

Make sure we have your email address so that we can update you between newsletters.

Let us hear from you!

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