

# Growing Faith



Saracoff Sentinel/Team Tijuana

SUMMER 2012

## We're Grateful For:

- Arturo's successful surgery
- Many people who have contributed food/supplies.
- Twelve new children in God's family!
- Growing unity in Team Tijuana
- Carretas Good News Club and the free lending library of songs, memory verses & Bible stories

## Our Trip Schedule

Sturgis, SD Jun 1-3

Twin Cities Jun 7-17

Ind. Jun 20-Jul 18

Colorado Jul 20-27

Home by August 1!

(Lord Willing)

## Pray For:

- Fatima's family & God's resources poured out.
- Opportunities to see and encourage supporters.
- God's provision for all of the ministries while we're away; may they flourish!
- Francisca & follow-up for new young believers.

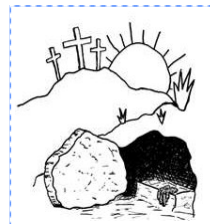
## Let the Little Ones Come Unto Me by Greg

Attendance was down because of rain. The stalwart 40 kids came slogging through the mud. Church ladies were busily sweeping the rainwater off the second floor porch, unmindful of the waterfall they were creating for the kids coming through the entryway downstairs. Our group had driven through some pretty awesome mud holes to make it to this Saturday morning Kid's Club.



The pastor's wife (Francisca) started the songs in the sanctuary. I was feeling like this might be one of those "hard mornings" but the lively songs soon lifted our spirits. Others usually give the story so this was my first time to be in front of these kids and I didn't know how they would respond. I had an ace in the hole— a large green frog puppet, but God would have to work in hearts if anything was going to happen of eternal significance.

"Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." Hebrews 9:22b was the verse for the day. The lesson had to do with "Threes" in the Easter Story— Peter's three denials, three crosses, three days in the grave, etc. The frog was a big hit and I had a good argument with him over why it was necessary for Christ to shed his blood for us. Nothing else would do. As a frog, "Kermy" preferred green to the red drop I was using on the flannel graph to represent Christ's blood. But "going green" did not work to change the dirty heart to a clean one.



Now came the last two sets: 3 things to do to accept Christ (Admit I need Christ, Believe He died for me and Tell others He's my Savior). I asked them how many had not done the first 3 and many hands went up. I explained again, thinking they had not understood—but they had. They wanted to change their lives and accept Christ. Praise the Lord!! Please **pray for them** so they can work on the last set of threes—3 steps to being a disciple of Christ. (Dedicate my life to serve Jesus, Confess my sins right away, Communicate with Him by praying and reading the Bible). **Pray** that Francisca and church people will be diligent in following up with these young lives.

What exactly is Team Tijuana? Team TJ refers to the leaders of the ministries that we work with: Esperanza Drug Rehab, Carretas Children's Work, Campamento de Fe (ministry to sick and wounded street men), and Micro Finance. Leaders meet weekly to study God's Word, network, encourage and pray for each other. Team Tijuana is a registered Mexican non-profit.



Arturo befriended Manuel.



Director Flor and the new wheelchair accessible garden at Campo de Fe.

## Gardens—What's Growing? by Kathy

Arturo is an example of God's gardening in human lives. For 6 years, following a construction accident that shattered his spine, his reality has been a bed of constant pain not alleviated by drugs. But after meeting Jesus at Campamento de Fe (Faith Camp), he has used his hours and days of pain to pray for others--the sick and suffering men around him at C de F, the visitors, the members of his church family.

In December, when he was offered a free surgery to relieve the pain, he went in simple faith. The surgery took place in a city 14 hours away from TJ. God provided transportation both ways, a place to stay in that city and \$4000 for the necessary surgical pins (an expense we did not anticipate). The local church there supported him in prayer and people that did not even know him helped. How amazing to witness God creating miracles in the lives of all who accept Him as their Gardener!

Today Arturo is in wonderful spirits and almost pain free. He's tending the new vegetable garden that a team recently built. But the enduring harvest will be the answered prayers and changed lives due to the faith of those at Campo de Fe.

### **Blessed are the Poor in Spirit**

She has a brain tumor; I hoped to make a video for her children to remember her. I tried to call ahead but she couldn't respond, since she had no credit on her phone.

"No! Don't give me \$10!" were the surprising words that came out of Fatima's mouth when I offered to put some credit on her cell phone. "Sabes porque?" she continued. "I want your prayers, not your money." She went on to recount her terror two years ago when the doctor said her daughter's foot would have to be amputated. She considered going out to beg, but instead she called a friend and asked for prayer. Soon after the phone rang...God moved someone to pay for the surgery and meds to save the foot. A gift of \$9000! Fatima knows "Jehovah Jirah," her Provider.

"If you pray for me, God will supply all my needs, but more than any material things, I know my treasure is Jesus and I trust Him!" This said by a woman recently diagnosed with a brain tumor and not expected to survive long, mother to 4 children including Lupita with spina bifida referred to above. What a testimony her words will be to them later, when she is gone. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs." *Lord, bless this family with the same faith exhibited by their mother Fatima, and may you grant Lupita's desire for a keyboard so she can keep on praising you even in the dark times.*



Fatima & Lupita praising God on a borrowed instrument

**Latin America Mission**

**P.O. Box 52-7900**

**Miami, FL 33152-7900**

Please indicate:

**Saracoff Ministry**

[www.lam.org](http://www.lam.org)



Let us hear from you!

**Greg & Kathy Saracoff**

173 Whitney Street

Chula Vista, CA 91910

[gkoff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gkoff@sbcglobal.net)



Greg & Kathy in their pioneer costumes.