

Niños de Cristo

The Crumbleys in Mexico

10-20-06

¡Los Angeles Alabaron!

The angels rejoiced or los angeles alabaron because of all the babes in Christ at la Iglesia de Cristo in La Villa. In English, we have had lots of baptisms lately, and not just the typical young person or young adult. We have seen married couples come to be baptized, like Jorge and Lucy, new to the church and the faith. We have seen older ladies with grown children like Lupita come. And yes, we have seen young teens like Cynthia, the pastor's daughter come to accept Christ, and Andres, a young man in his early twenties.

Even though our pastor Gerardo has no car and has to scramble to find transportation he has found a way to spend time teaching these new converts and welcoming them into the body of Christ. Thanks for your prayers for Gerardo and the church in La Villa. God is working and los angeles estan alabando!

What Can We Do to Help?

This week we were asked by some friends from Central Christian Church in Brownsville, "What can we do to help?" There are various ways to help our ministry team and our partners in ministry here in Matamoros. Here's a few:

Sponsorships-We have many families that need someone to sponsor them for \$50 a month. With this amount we can feed a family and take other supplies to them like school supplies and uniforms. We have five new families that need sponsors right now.

Wal-Mart gifts and gift cards- Each month we have basic needs within our school, our teachers' families, and our kids' families. Paint, coloring crayons, paper towels, mud boots, school shoes or uniforms are just a few of the needs. You can help us by purchasing a Wal-Mart gift card or sending a donation for specific items.

Buy a Book! We always need good children's books in Spanish and we are also slowly building a library of Christian books for teens and adults in Spanish, like Max Lucado, Philip Yancey, Bill Hybels, John Maxwell, Beth Moore, Charles Swindoll, John Piper, and several other authors. You can send any books to us at our address in Texas.

Be a Financial Partner – We are always searching for new partners to give and share in the work God is doing here before us. Gifts of all amounts are appreciated. We can take \$20 and buy a pair of shoes and school supplies for one child. We can take \$100, \$200, or \$300 and pay our dedicated Mexican staff for one month. We could hire more Mexican staff.

Be a Prayer Partner – Since the day we drove away from our son's apartment in August of 2004 until today we have been sustained and directed by the prayers of others like you. We need more prayer to see God work more in all of our lives. Each day new challenges present themselves and only God has the answers. You can email us and notify us of this decision.

Praises! The many new converts in the church at La Villa...New tutoring program successfully began by Cindi Wachholtz...Generous donations by Harold Sullivan Bible Class in Carrollton, and other awesome friends in Georgia towards our Mexican Ministers fund...Lots of love expressed in the name of Christ...

Devoni (Cindi's first student)



Gerardo and daughter Angie



Prayers Anonymous

Please continue to pray for our staff—Carolina, Martin, Brenda, Cristina, Juan, Sarah, and Jim, Cindi, Adam, and Isaac Wachholtz. Pray especially for Jim and Cindi as they overcome and break through several trials placed in their pathway. Pray also for our children—for abuse to leave and Christ’s love to dwell in their homes.

All They Need Is love by Kelley

Mark 10:13-16—People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

The children here just need love. Love through a kind word, a smile, or a hug and a kiss. Yesterday, Juanita seemed a little sad. She sat at lunch very quietly with her head hung low. After lunch I just leaned over embraced her and asked, “Is everything okay?” She didn’t speak; she just leaned back into me and gave me a smile. I don’t know what was wrong, she didn’t say, but I do know that the little bit of love I gave her seemed to help.

Wednesday all day long I kept feeling little arms reach around the back of me. All day long Paola loved on me and I would reach down and return the embrace. She just needed to feel loved and to be shown some attention.

Judith likes to be held. She usually gets to the school before the rest of the kids. When she first started coming she cried and cried and cried, for about 2 hours. Now she comes in and gives a little whimper for mom and reaches out to me to be held. All day long she plays for about 10 or 15 minutes and then she reaches up to be held. She knows that I’ll pick her up and love on her. She’s almost two years old and quite the heavy child, but I always give into those little chubby hands and that beautiful face. I love to love her as much as she loves to be loved.

Chino, I have to admit, is my favorite because he reminds me so much of my Cam, who always has a hug and a kiss for me. Chino has godly parents who set a good example for him, Carolina and Martin. Chino is usually the one loving on me first.

In our situation here, it’s important that we show love and affection graciously because many of these children don’t get it at home. So we’ve learned that it doesn’t matter who initiates love, just that we give it like Jesus did when he “took the children in his arms”.

Let the Bidding Begin! By Tony

It had been raining for at least three days and already two times that morning it had rained. Boy, was it muggy, about 110% humidity. The church service that morning was pretty exciting. We started off with the baptisms of two new people, Jorge and Lucy, a couple which had recently started attending. Jorge is a tall Mexican man, so tall that it was a funny sight to peer at him over six feet tall standing beside our pastor Gerardo in the baptistry. But I didn’t laugh out loud because I think you’re not supposed to laugh during baptisms, although I know I heard someone else snickering a bit.

After the baptisms and the music Kelley, Sarah and I departed for Kids’ Church, which is usually a lot of fun. We had somewhat of a long service that day so my assistant teacher Osbel sneaked over to check things out and see why it was so long. He came back to report, “We are buying concrete blocks for the new building!” Not the answer I expected, but it sure got my interest. So off I went after dismissing class.

I’ve never been a part of a block buying, but I’ve got to tell you it is quite interesting and good fun. The pastor would ask loudly, “Who’s next? Who wants to buy some blocks or some cement bags for our new building?” And someone’s hand would shoot up in the air and they would holler out, “50!” or “100!” or “200!” or maybe, “3 bags of cement!” It was sheer excitement and adrenalin, the same atmosphere as an auction.

The incredible part of all this is the fact that most of our church members are rather poor. Picture this, a group of Mexican Christians who might make \$60 a week or less, yelling out what they would give, not having a clue how they would make that money. Truly, this was all by faith on the part of our church members. Most of the families don’t own a car and if they do, that car looks like it’s own its last leg, about to conk out at any moment. So for most of them this buying of 50 blocks, about \$25 dollars was a sheer act of sacrifice coupled with faith that God would provide.

Today was an exciting time in the life of our church in Mexico, Iglesia de Cristo, not because we pledged over 3,300 blocks and an unknown amount of cement bags, but because many gave out of their richness, the richness of a heart full of love for Christ and His Church.

2 Corinthians 8:9 – “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”

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