

LIFELINE MINISTRIES SPECIAL REPORT

June 3, 2009

"He called a **little child** and had him stand among them. And He said: 'I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like **little children**, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself **like this child** is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes a **little child** like this in My name welcomes Me.'" (Matthew 18:2-5, NIV)

"... and a **little child** will lead them." (Isaiah 11:6, NIV)

"From the lips of **children and infants** you have ordained praise ... to silence the foe and the avenger." (Psalm 8:2, NIV)

"But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things He did and the **children** shouting in the temple area, 'Hosanna to the Son of David,' they were indignant. 'Do you hear what these **children** are saying?' they asked Him.



Child of a migrant farm worker

'Yes,' replied Jesus, 'have you never read, 'From the lips of **children and infants** you have ordained praise?'" (Matthew 21:15-16, NIV)

DEAR FRIENDS,

We are always pressed for time when we are preparing a newsletter to send out, and typically forget something important. The old noodles just don't work like they used to!! However, this spring, we forgot something SO BIG, the follow-up report on this year's Christmas shoebox distribution, that we've decided to make it the entire focus of



our communiqué this time - albeit a little belatedly! We will save all other recent news and photos for our next newsletter in the early fall. We believe this will be an exciting special report for the many

of you who have asked us how the shoebox distribution went this year, for those who participated in any way, and for others

of you who just love kids or are interested in how lives are being touched here in Mexico!!

While we shared just a little about the Christmas shoeboxes in the December 14th newsletter, we were not able to share more because most of the distribu-

tions took place *after* Christmas this year! We had to work around quite a few things, so most of the ministry to the children took place between January, and April.



Pastor Ronnie Shofner, from Childress, TX

To begin...

This year's Christmas shoebox distribution was a rousing success, but quite different in many respects from those of the past. For one thing, the boxes were brought to Mexico in a different manner than previous years. In late November, a missions team from Childress, TX (which also included two precious friends from Los Alamos, NM) brought the boxes down in a van crammed with 7 people, their luggage and all the Christmas shoeboxes/stuffed animals! And we wondered why they were all

gasping for breath as they exited the van upon their arrival here in Guaymas!

Secondly, there were significantly less shoeboxes and stuffed animals contributed than in previous years, perhaps because of the economy, but they were still a **HUGE BLESSING** to some of the neediest children of this area!! We were so tremendously grateful for what was sent, and want to **THANK ALL** those who participated in the project this year from New Mexico and

Texas (and Shay in Illinois!). Also, we want to give our **THANKS AGAIN** to Glory Christian Fellowship in Albuquerque, NM, for coordinating the project for us in 2008 stateside! We received approximately 170 Christmas shoeboxes and 35 stuffed animals this year to share. For those who might not know, we normally give stuffed animals to all the under 5's, since the shoeboxes have things in them that could be dangerous for babies, toddlers and very young children. Thankfully, we had extra stuffed animals from last year to

add to what came in this year, so that we had "just enough" for all the under 5's this year. Isn't the Lord so good?? He always makes provision – somehow!

Another thing that was different this year was that we broke ground in some new places and were blessed by the involvement of many new people, both young and old, both American and Mexican!! The Lord is breaking down walls and bringing together people's whose lives might normally never cross!

The First Trek - "El Cerrito"

The first distribution was in the ejido of "El Cerrito", a village in the valley about 40 minutes south of Guaymas. The missions team who brought the



boxes from the states led games with the children, gave out balloons, we led some songs and then they shared a drama which

had all the children on the edge of their seats! Afterwards, the children were divided into groups and local helpers led prayer for the children in each small group. Local helpers also distributed cake and punch to the children, and then the shoeboxes/stuffed animals



were distributed at the very end. There were not as many children as expected because we found out, too late, that the people who were putting the word out for us in this village had only invited children who attend the local mis-



sions church. We wanted to touch the lives of *all* the children in the village, and it was so sad to find out an hour into our time there that only a small group of 50 or so children had been told about the event. We are trying to teach and model through our own lives here

that God wants to touch the lives of those who do *not* know Him, and pour out His love on them, not just "bless the Christians". After all, the Bible

reminds us that it is His kindness or goodness that leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4). And most of us began following

the Lord *because* He touched us with His love and revealed Himself to us *before* we knew Him! But sometimes it is like swimming against a strong current when the Lord is challenging traditional thinking.



The Second Trek - "Hijos del Rey"

The second distribution was in a small private orphanage just north of Guaymas called "Hijos del Rey". We normally go to this orphanage



Jesús opens his shoebox are desirous of serving Him. They range in age from 3 to 13. We went alone to this orphan-

age since it is so small

every year, and do special things with the kids during the year, so we know all of them pretty well. Most of these kids have received the Lord, and



Nayeli and her "peluchas"

We spent the afternoon with the kids, playing and having a

good time with them, getting caught up on what is happening in their lives, as well as distributing the shoeboxes and stuffed animals.



Jorgito y David

We also met the new "houseparents" who had just moved in a few months before, and got to know them just a little bit!

The Third Trek - "Hogar Paz y Bien"

The third distribution was at another orphanage, with about 50 kids in Guaymas, called "Hogar Paz y Bien". It is normally a regular part of our annual Christmas shoebox distribution. It is a Catholic orphanage, and the Reverend Mother has always welcomed us and our helpers. They had just gotten a new director this year, but she was equally as welcoming when we set things up earlier in the fall. (There is another Catholic orphanage south of Empalme, with extremely needy children that we used to visit with Christmas shoeboxes also, but a former Reverend Mother who is



the orphanage in downtown Guaymas, we took 12 young people who wanted to help minister God's love to the children.

The Reverend

Mother was quite taken aback that so many young people wanted to be a part of it, and she seemed a little afraid at first of having so many teenagers there at one time! But by the end, she appeared quite relaxed and impressed with the quality of young people who came with us. Dave played his guitar and we sang



very hostile to non-Catholics returned to oversee the orphanage and we were not granted permission this year.) At



songs, and then the teenagers gave out balloons and stickers, and led group games with the kids (various relay races, hot potato, etc.) for several hours. Then we distributed the shoeboxes and stuffed animals before waving tearful good-byes to all the children. As we left, we could see they had gathered at all the



bedroom windows to wave good-bye again to us out on the street. Afterwards, we took the whole group of teenage helpers in the back of Dave's pickup for ice cream, and capped off a lovely day in a lovely way! These young people were jazzed to have an opportunity to give something to younger, less fortunate kids, and they talked about it for weeks afterwards!!



The Fourth and Fifth Treks - Felipe Angeles & Fatima

The last two distributions in 2009 were a bit different than in other years. Samaritan's Purse, an outreach of Franklin Graham's ministry, chose



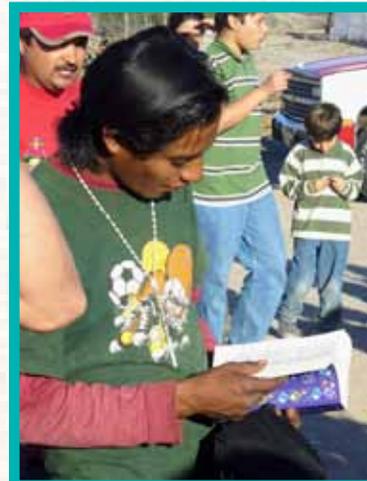
Guaymas for their target city this year. They supplied participating churches in the city with shoeboxes to reach children in their neighborhoods over the Christmas holidays. When the dust settled and the smoke cleared, the pastor of one of the churches we attend (who coordinated the Samaritan's Purse ministry on this end) had a number of shoeboxes left over. Because



of the disappointing turnout at El Cerrito, we also had some boxes and stuffed animals left over.

So we joined forces. On Valentines day, we went to an agricultural work camp, near an ejido in the valley called "Felipe Angeles". It's about an hour's drive southeast of Guaymas. The church folks prepared a drama and choreographed dances, led group games, and brought bags of clothes, boxes of Bibles and even lunch to share with the folks in the work camp. They

were phenomenal!!! In fact, they rented a bus and 40 members of the church (many of whom were children and youth) came to share their lives with the children and others in this work camp. While most of the prayer was offered over the group as a whole, many of us were able to chat with different ones and pray with them individually. We were able to do this for the first time because there



was such a large group of helpers. Unfortunately, it wasn't possible to get photos of the kids opening their shoebox-

es in this particular place, because it was a madhouse giving everything out, and then every child who could walk quickly grabbed



their box and ran home with it!! We remained at the work camp for almost 5 hours, then finally pulled up stakes and headed back to Guaymas as the sun was going down. We were all very tired, but it was "good tired" - that feeling of deep contentment that comes afterwards, knowing that people's lives have been touched and changed by an



awesome and wonderful God!!

Surprisingly (or maybe not - remember the loaves and fishes?), there were *still* boxes and stuffed animals left over when we left Felipe Angeles!

We had enough to commit to a pastoral family in one of the poorest Colonias of Guaymas who have an outreach to local children, so on April 4th, we again went



with the Mirimar Church group to the Colonia of Fatima to distribute the remainder of the boxes. Again, it was difficult to get pictures

of the kids opening their boxes because they were so excited that many of the children ran home with their boxes before they were even opened!



Would You Pray?

Before we close, we have a need again this year for an individual or church to coordinate the Christmas Shoebox Project on the New Mexico end. It involves coordinating with several different churches, and perhaps a home group or two, to collect the boxes and store them in one place for pickup. Most of the work takes place in the fall, between September and early December. If you are interested or have questions you'd like to ask, please contact us by phone or email. Thank you so much!!

Sharing Our Appreciation

We want to thank each of you again, our dear friends, for your love and the incredible support you have given us - through your encouragement, prayers, emails, and contributions in so many different ways. We are making a difference, but it is only possible because we are surrounded by the love and prayers of committed and faithful friends like you!!

We love you dearly,

Dave and *Dee*

Dave and Dee Alei
Apdo. Postal #815
Admon. Urbana No. 1
Guaymas, Sonora
C.P. 85401 Mexico

Mexico Address

**U.S. tax deductible contributions may be sent to Lifeline Ministries
clo Stegalls - 2065 Avalon Drive, Las Cruces, NM 88005
US Office Phone: 575.644.5076**

British contributors, please [contact Dave and Dee](#) for details.



www.lifeline-ministries.net

Email: lifelinemexico@gmail.com
dndalei@lifeline-ministries.net
Mexico Phone: (+52) 622.221.7641