

# Special Edition Newsletter

**MAY 25, 2011**

Dear Friends,

**W**e have exciting news!! After blood, sweat, tears and years (31/2 to be exact) THE GUAYMAS YOUTH CENTER IS NOW OPEN! "El Oasis" finally opened its doors earlier this month after yet another delay in April when the courtyard had to be torn up another time for reasons beyond our control. Before that, we had experienced delays when our 60 year



old concrete sewer pipes began to collapse and had to be replaced, and before that when various hurricanes destroyed the work we had already done and even caused the exterior adobe walls to collapse, when various break-ins at the center resulted in a great deal of damage (as well as the need to replace the items stolen) and

when the city blocked off the entire street for three months and we could not get close enough with the tools to work. So this is quite an achievement, a wonderful answer to prayer and the beginning of something new and awesome for Guaymas!!

**E**ven though this is a city of 150,000 people, there are NO community or youth centers. This is the only thing of its kind in Guaymas!! As a result, many young people have no safe place to go with their friends. (Many of the houses are very tiny, with little seating room.) Or they are left alone at loose ends while their parents work, and so they get into trouble with alcohol and drugs, among other things.



**T**he Lord gave us several goals for the youth center when He first put the vision on our hearts and we began to look for a suitable location. (1) To be a safe place for young people ages

14-21 to gather with their friends, have fun and visit – with ping-pong, a pool table, foosball, basketball and a snack/coffee bar as well as living room area with groupings of chairs and tables. (2) To bring a vision for something more – offering “life skills” type workshops taught by various local people who are willing to give their time to prepare the kids for a brighter future. We also have some adults willing to come and tutor a few nights a week at the youth center.



Eventually, we envision some Bible studies starting up through the youth center for seekers and new believers. (3) To bring hope, encouragement and support to individual youth, sharing the life and the love of Jesus with them in a non-religious and very natural way.

It is a place where kids can come to know Him through the love, kindness and friendship of others through whom He is working. (4) To provide leadership training opportunities for the older, more responsible Christian teens as they help in the operation of the youth center and develop a desire to reach out to other youth who are troubled, need encouragement or simply need a friend.



**T**he one thing we had planned to do, but have had to forego, is an internet café. We are a little sad about this, but arrived at this decision for several reasons. First, all the computers we had collected are so old now that they are useless for the kids' needs. Secondly, so many companies here have begun to offer cheap computers on credit over the past couple of years (even the telephone company has gotten into the act!) that most families with high school and college-age kids have found a way to get a computer on credit. So the internet cafés that were so prevalent when we first arrived 6 years ago, are almost all gone now. Finally, we discovered



that we were desperate for more storage space and really needed to use the room for this purpose.

**W**e had a grand opening party last week, to which we invited many of our closest friends and co-workers in the Kingdom here in Guaymas, as well as some of the young people with whom we have been working from around the city. A wonderful time was had by all and many more people are excited about the youth center now that they can SEE it happening! After the grand opening party (a private affair), we then opened the youth center to the public. We already have several people willing to come tutor, several who are interested in teaching free workshops and a whole roster of quality kids lined up for the summer to help at the center – in fact, we already have a weekly schedule put together! The ball is finally rolling!!

**A** HUGE THANK YOU to all who helped make this youth center for Guaymas a reality – those whose monthly missions support helped fund all the work needed to construct and remodel the locale (as well as furnish it), those who donated goods and special items

for the center, those who came down with missions teams and spent a few days working hard physically to paint or clean or hang lights or fix roofs to help us get the work another step further along, those who prayed with us through each setback and those who provided continual encouragement and moral support during the long process! May the Lord bring release and impartation, and pour back into your lives - pressed down, shaken together and running over! As you have helped to bless this city, may your lives in turn be blessed abundantly!!



**A few more photos to share, just because we're so excited to finally be open!**



**We love you dearly,**

*Dave & Dee*

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