



# Casalight



## Summer is here and going, going, g . . .

Summer is a special time of year here at the Casa. It brings with it some of the same things that you experience where you are. For the children it brings the end of the school year; they get 6 weeks of vacation. There are lightning bugs, summer heat, thunderstorms, playing tag, and the laughter of the children. Like the children you know, ours sometimes get bored, because they cannot find anything to do. Summer also starts the rainy season here, which means that it rains almost everyday. Sometimes there is rolling thunder that lasts for 10 minutes at a time, and repeating continuously for over an hour.

With the rain comes projects that must be done. If you took the time to watch, you could literally see the grass grow. There are also many maintenance projects that must be done. We are grateful for the groups that God supplies from churches in the area, who help by mowing the lawn and doing some of the repairs of the buildings, and other jobs. We want to be the shining light on the hill that will draw our neighbors to Him. We believe keeping the buildings and the grounds well maintained is a testimony to the fact that we are different.



## Schools out! / Back to School!

The title of this article may sound a little strange, but because the children only have 6 weeks off from school, we must begin thinking of the next school year, as soon as the previous one ends.

Our school year ended during the last week of June. The children and the teachers put on a culminating production. Each grade did a skit, a musical production, or a dance. Each child who attends our school was involved. Special awards were given. We are proud of all of our children, especially of the ones who graduated to middle school. There were four from the Casa, Norma, Diana, Ariana, and Christian.

Now we are getting ready to go back to school. We desire to send the 4 who graduated to the same Christian middle school that Irvin attends. We need additional funds to be supplied for all five, so that we can send them. For each child we need to pay an inscription fee, buy books, uniforms, pay tuition, and buy miscellaneous school supplies. The total amount to get them started in school is \$1000 US. Additional funds are also needed for the other children. If you could help supply this **urgent need** please contact us by email at [tepic@casadeninos.org](mailto:tepic@casadeninos.org).

---

### Casa de Niños Frank Gonzales A.C.

Issue 6  
August 2003

---

#### Casa Kids

Alan	Yesenea
Yuli	Martin
Yara	Esmerelda
Juan	Freddy
Arnold	Guillermo
Samuel	Martha
Marco	Oscar
Jessica	Victor
Gabby	Lucero
Cristian	Diana
Norma	Ariana
Irvin	Andrea
Sara	Lupita
	Belinda

---

#### Inside this issue:

Summer	1
Out and back	1
Building update	2
Groups	2
Individuals/Couples	3
Be a Hero	3
Antonio	4

---

# One piece at a Time

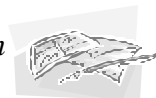


I want to update you on how the building project for the school is going. We are in the process of beginning to build an addition to the school. All building projects take time in Mexico; there are so many governmental strings that need to be cut and loose ends that must be tied. Every piece of the project must be done step by step. If you compare this project to track and field, you realize that you must not take off running as you would for a 50-yard dash. It is like a marathon, you must run at a steady pace, and rely on people on the sidelines to supply water and encouragement. The people who send money for this specific project are like those who supply water along the route of the marathon. Groups that come to help are also like those along the route, who run alongside shouting encouraging words.

We are working directly with the architect soon as he gets the check he will begin the project. The first load of sand and bricks arrived on August 5th. Each thing is done step by step; some steps are long ones and others are short.

We are still in need of \$7000 towards this project. We have had a generous donation from some people at Century Marketing in Bowling Green, Ohio. Please pray that God would continue to help us with the finances. If God touches you with this need please send your donations, as soon as possible.

*Give what you have, for you never know —to someone else it may be better than you can even dare to think.* Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



## Groups



Groups are such an important part of the ministry that goes on here. We have a small staff. We are able to get the day-to-day things done, but we would be unable to keep everything going without the help of the groups that come. Some of the groups come from the United States and spend a week or more working with us. Some come mainly to minister to the children. We appreciate all of them.

In early June two groups came, to begin the process of getting the lot ready for the school building project. The first was from Ohio, and came to us through a local church, La Fuente. The second came from five churches from Pennsylvania and Ohio. This group was sent through an organization called Church Planting International which is located in Bowling Green, OH. Two lots were cleared; the first was cleared of boulders, weeds, brush and trash that had piled up over the years. Then a foundation had to be dug and laid; to make room for the trailer which had to be moved from the building site. The second lot which is the building site, had to have an awning torn down, trees trimmed, and the trailer moved.

If you are interested in sending a group from your church or organization, please contact Russ at [russ@casadeninos.org](mailto:russ@casadeninos.org), thank you.

## Individuals and couples

As important as groups are to keeping the Casa running, individuals and couples who come to serve are also important. We were blessed in June with a couple, Gilbert and Dahlia and her mother Luisa, who attend Mercedes Christian Church. They came with the desire to begin a program to sponsor individual children at the Casa. They also made excellent tacos for us one evening.

Kathy stayed with us after the group she co-led left. She was here to help smooth out the transitions for Kayla who came to help us in the office for six months. Kathy helped out wherever she was needed. She did laundry, helped in the kitchen and made a few meals. She also ministered encouragement to individuals who work for the Lord in Tepic.

Continued on the next page

Bernie and her daughter Joy came here to do much work. Bernie came with a vision to begin a program to bring Spanish language students from the US to Mexico so that they would be totally immersed in the language and the culture. They will live with local families and help at the Casa, and get High School credit. Bernie and Joy also did many landscaping projects, painted one of the house parent’s apartments and a bedroom at the Casa. I cannot take the time to list all that have accomplished. They have been here for a little over a month and when they leave, will be greatly missed.

Martin and Colette are here in Tepic as missionaries through the Le Fuente church. They have done much yard and kitchen work, and spent time with the children. They have helped wherever they have seen the need. An interesting thing about this couple is that Martin and Colette met at a school to become missionaries, he is from Mexico and Colette is from the US. They are planning to spend 2 months in Tepic.

Antonio has been here at the Casa for about three weeks. He is 18 and a former resident. He came to work here during the summer. He has been a blessing and I have asked him to write a little about himself. That article will be on the last page.



## Be a hero of the faith

(James 2: 20) “But wilt thou know O vain man, that faith without works is dead.” (James 2:26) “For as the body without the spirit is dead so faith without works is dead also.”

God has called each of us to glorify His name. If we have been given much we should not hoard it. We have been called to give to the fatherless and the widows in their need, see James 1:27. You can be a hero to many boys and girls who need your help. We have many needs here at the Casa, please pray for us and encourage us. Please also send us a note of encouragement.

Here is a list of specific needs:

1. \$500 needed for inscription fees and tuition for the first month to send 5 children ,Christian, Diana, Irvin, Ariana, and Norma to Christian middle school. An additional \$2250 is needed for the entire school year for tuition.
2. \$7000 for the addition to the school.
3. \$1500 needed for shoes and uniforms for all of the children.
4. Digital camera

Here is a list of specific prayer needs:

1. Godly house parents for the boys.
2. God’s Spirit to send renewal in the staff and in the children.
3. Health for the workers and the children.
4. Pray that God would cause Esmerelda’s immune system to work better.
5. Jose Luis & Lucy the girls house parents, that they would be strengthened.
6. Pray for Gina and Francisco who are going to have another baby in early November. Please pray for their financial needs.

Please, if God has touched your heart to help supply what is needed to feed, house, love and train up the children of the Casa, consider giving in one, or more of these ways.

I pledge to give a monthly gift of \_\_\_\_\_ I pledge to give a yearly gift of \_\_\_\_\_

I am giving a one time gift of \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

My address is \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to give a gift for a specific need. Please note it on the check..

Make checks out to: Casa de Niños and send to:

Mercedes Christian Church  
P.O. Box 896  
Mercedes Tx 78570

Note: 100 % of donations go to Casa de Ninos.

# Casa de Niños

P.O. Box 896  
Mercedes Texas 78570



U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit # 84  
Mercedes TX.  
78570

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

A ministry of God's love  
in Tepic Mexico

### Invest in the life of an abandoned child

Send a donation to:  
Mercedes Christian Church  
P.O. Box 896  
Mercedes TX. 78570

“An investment that will have a rewarding return”

### Mission Statement

**Being lights in this world showing forth God's love. Helping children and others to ignite a light in their lives so that we can indeed be as Jesus wanted, a light to the world.**

*Matt. 5:16*



### THE TESTIMONY THAT GOD HAS GIVEN ME

It's about God, not about me, but I did not know it for a long time. I was born into this world for a purpose, but the sin of this world and the sin that was in my nature, caused me to suffer many things. Whatever the circumstances God was there with me the whole time. This is my story:

I was born in Mexico City. My father died of a heart attack before I was born. After a while my mom abandoned my sister and me and left us with my grandma. She abused us physically; my sister received most of the beatings. One day my grandmother broke my leg (that is just one thing that my grandmother did to me). The authorities found out and took her to prison. They took us to a hospital and then to an orphanage. The governor of Tepic came to Mexico City to the orphanage that we were in, and saw my sister and had compassion and brought her to Tepic for surgery, but I was left in Mexico City.

Sometime later I was brought to stay with my sister at the Christian orphanage (Casa de Niños). This is where I grew up. I was a hurting child who hurt others. If it were not for God's mercy and people that loved the Lord, I wouldn't be here. Satan always was in the way trying to destroy my life, but God was always one step ahead. I was really hurt so I hurt the people that loved me at he Casa. Some how I knew that there was a God, plus the things they were teaching me about Jesus; caused me to believe in God.

I don't remember the exact time I received Jesus in to my heart, but I know that I did because my life was changing each day. When I was fourteen years old, I made a commitment to God to serve him and follow him no matter what. Since then, I have come to know God more deeply each day.

It took some time for God to heal my broken heart; it took willingness and a relationship of obedience and commitment of love, to God on my part, God did the rest.

My struggles were with rejection, shame and fear, but with God's healing hand they are gone. Each day I walk with the reality of the Lord's love for me. Now I can trust God with all of my heart, which I could not do before when I was in darkness, but now I am in the light of Jesus. God has restored my life and my true identity, to be what I was intended to be in the first place, to be with God in a communion of love. I am not perfect yet but I will be one day when Jesus is made perfect in me, I take two steps back but three steps forward.

This is my purpose: to be with God for eternity; my gift, my blessing, and my destiny. Antonio