

September, 2011
2011, Issue 4



Mission to Mexico

Matthew 25: 31-46.

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August Trip Update

By Rachel Fannin

The August trip was a huge success thanks to a committed group of volunteers and a lot of local support in Austin as we organized and prepared for the trip. While the front end organization went smoothly, we found the economic downturn has taken a huge toll on the families in the colonia. The needs far outweighed the available resources. The stories they shared of desperation, hunger and thirst were devastating.

- Rising unemployment creating a very real hunger crisis. These families already live a hand to mouth existence. There is no financial buffer. There is no welfare. There is no unemployment check. NO JOB MEANS NO FOOD!
- The mother of a small baby pleading for infant formula because she was unable to produce enough breast milk to feed her baby.
- A family of six had not eaten in two days before we arrived.
- Lack of available water/water pressure due to funneling water to more affluent areas.

We currently budget to deliver groceries [rice, beans, flour, oil, and soap] to 750 families at an approximate cost of \$6.50 per family. The cash donations are dwindling with the economy and we need your help to continue to fund the grocery dispensa every other month.

Please visit www.mtmaustin.org website today to make a contribution for the upcoming trip in October 7 & 8, 2011. **You can make a real difference in reducing hunger in the colonia.**



"Families waited in long lines in the heat to receive groceries and cooking staples."

Monthly Fund Raiser Taco Cabana

Fourth Thursday of every month
5:00 pm to 9:00 pm



**WHEN: September 22, 2011
October 27, 2011**

Place your order inside and be sure to tell the cashier that you are there to support Mission to Mexico. 20% of all sales proceeds will be donated to MTM Austin.

*Taco Cabana
6611 S. Mopac Expwy
Austin, Texas
(corner of Mopac &
William Cannon)*

Child Sponsorship Program

By Melanie Fannin



3 young men and
3 young women graduated
from 'Prepa'.

Three young men and three young women in the Sponsorship program recently graduated from "Prepa" or what we know as high school. Five of the graduates have had an MTM sponsor since the first year of the program; the sixth entered the program last year. All of them intend to continue their education at university.

One of the graduates, Jose Luis, is featured in an article in this newsletter. As he says, the support of his MTM sponsor has been very important to his success. His fellow graduates echoed that sentiment. Coupled

with the 86% of sponsored children who arrived to receive their uniforms, shoes and backpacks with their final 2010-2011 grades in hand, these six graduates demonstrate the effectiveness and importance of our Sponsorship Program.

Thank you to each and every sponsor. Your support of these children is making a demonstrable difference!



Pat Gavia with sponsor
child, Ana Patricia.

Perspective: Sponsor

By Pat Gavia

My husband and I are fortunate enough to sponsor two children through the Mission to Mexico Sponsorship program. I am also fortunate enough to go on the mission trips. The little girl we sponsor, Kandra, will be 7 in October. When the two of us see each other, we run into each other's arms. She has the most beautiful smile. I love seeing her. She is so excited to receive whatever we are bringing each trip. In August, it was uniforms, backpacks, and school supplies. She is absolutely precious.

The second student we sponsor is Jose Luis, a teen boy. We found out on the August trip that Jose Luis had graduated from high school and is moving on to Universidad (University). We are so excited for him. What a wonderful success story for our sponsorship program. He wrote an essay for us about what the sponsorship program has meant to him and what his hopes and dreams are for the future. We are hopeful

that Mission to Mexico can establish a scholarship program for these ambitious young people who are interested in continuing their education under the most dire of circumstances.

I also sponsored a child in honor of my parents for their Christmas present last year. Her name is Ana Patricia (and mine is Patricia Ann). I make sure to greet her each trip and remind her that we have the same name only in reverse. It is hard for me to express how wonderful it is to see these precious students each trip. I am so very grateful for all the individuals who have sponsored these wonderful children in Nuevo Laredo who have such tremendous need in order to continue their education to overcome the cycle of poverty.

Perspective: High School Graduate

By Jose-Luis Sanchez Renteria, Nuevo Laredo, Tamulipas, Mexico
August 18, 2011

English Translation of Jose's Testimony:

Hello!

First of all, I give thanks to our friends that continually help us. They give us incentives to continue to study and be conscious of our studies.

My name is Jose Luis Sanchez Renteria, I am 18 years of age. I just finished my high school education and intend to enter the University. I know that my economic situation is difficult, it is my biggest obstacle.

My dream is to study so that in my future I can have a profession that will give me tools and knowledge to face life. The fact is, at this time I work as a mason to try to save money to help pay for my inscription.

I do not like the idea that I would not be able to continue my studies, therefore I seek your help to continue my education.

I remember a saying that has become my goal. "Study a lot, work little", Study little, and work a lot".

I would like my parents and friends to feel proud that in my life I am constantly pushing myself, and that I know how to overcome.

Thank you!

May God Bless You!

Jose Luis Sanchez Renteria

Spanish Version:

Hola!

Primeramente les doy las gracias a nuestros amigos que con su solidaridad nos ayudan constantemente. Nos dan un instimulo a seguir estudiando y ser constante en ello.

En mi caso mi nombre es Jose Luis Sanchez Renteria tengo 18 anos, acabo de terminar mi educacion media superior y quisiera o pretendo entrar a la Universidad. Se que la situacion economica es un poco dificil, convirtiendose en mi premer y mas grando obstaculo.

Mi sueño es estudiar para tener una profesion para que en mi future tenga heiromientas y conocimientos para enfrentarme a la vida. De heco en este tiempo para tartar d pagar mis estudios, trabajo de albonil y guardond el poco dinerito para par mi inscripcion.

Me gutaria obtener un apoyo por que no me agrada la idea de ya no estudiar.

Recuerdo un dicho, que se a convertido mi meta. "Estudia mucho y trabaja poco" Estudia poco y traba mucho".

Queiro que mis padres y amigos se sientan orgullos de que en mi vida supe superarme, esforzando me constantemente en mi vida.

Saludos

"GRACIAS"

Que Dios los Bendiga



Rachel Fannin with graduate Jose-Luis.

Website Launch

Visit today to 'join' the Mission to Mexico community. You will be able to sign up for specific interests, view your online donation history, register for mission trips, and view albums of past trips and newsletters. You will also have the option to "opt-out" of our electronic communications. We send one newsletter every other month to update you on each trip as well as reminders of our monthly fund raiser at Taco Cabana. We do NOT share member contact information with any other organization and make every effort to protect your privacy. .



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Find us on Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mission-To-Mexico-Page/191292420931260>

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.mtmaustin.org

URGENT NEEDS ...



- Financial Donations to cover the monthly food dispensa
- Child Sponsor Renewals Due November 1
- Donate online today by visiting our website at the link below:
<http://www.mtmaustin.org/donations/index.html>

THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS ...

Many thanks to Rick Valdez of Corsair USA, LLC (www.corsaircms.com) for his donation of countless hours and web hosting services that made the launch of our website and online donation site possible.

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION ...

MTM is dedicated to help the poor in the community of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. Fostering faith, hope and love while living out the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25. Our objective is to provide the opportunity for any willing volunteer to serve the needs of their Christian brothers and sisters in the community of La Nuestra Señora de Los Angeles Parish in Colonia Voluntad y Trabajo III.

As we serve, we must keep in mind that we are there as much for our own spiritual growth, as we are to help the poor. While our presence there requires some degree of organization, we try to stay focused on the spirituality of the mission. It is a tool of evangelization, not just in a spiritual sense, but also in a very real physical sense. We are families serving families in the name of the Lord.

The mission statement for Missionaries to Mexico (also known as Mission to Mexico) is found in the Gospel of Matthew 25: 34-40.

MISSION TO MEXICO

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