

SERVICIOS ASISTENCIALES LA ROCA

May 2006 Newsletter

*We delight ourselves in the Lord as He guides us,
love us, and takes care of all of our needs!
We serve a good and just God.*

Open the Doors –

When Claudia Hernández and her family came to La Roca, none of them had their “documents” such as a birth certificate, voter registration, or social security card. Just as in the USA, if you do not have these important documents you are considered an alien – even within your own country.

Undocumented children cannot attend public school and the highest level of legal work they can achieve as adults within Mexico is working in the tomato and vegetable fields where they are paid very poorly. This is the only work Claudia has ever known and had sadly envisioned this future for her children as well.

That being said, it is a true miracle for us to report to you that by the Grace of God, we have been able to register and obtain birth certificates for Claudia and her two oldest children, Lucero (15) and Jose Luis (10), with her youngest, Guillermo (5) soon to follow. This is truly a miracle because Claudia, who is native to the Oaxaca Indian area of Mexico, did not know her birth date, age, nor place of birth since she had been abandoned as a baby. Claudia and all of her children can now look forward to a bright and successful future where the possibilities and opportunities for success are endless! We look forward to celebrating Claudia’s first birthday party this summer, as she chose August 22nd to be her date of birth!



Claudia Hernández with her three children.

Video’s, Paint and a Big Link -

March and April brought us many of our faithful groups and friends. Some came to play, others came to work, but all came with lots of love! Although we can’t mention them all here – we appreciate and love them all.

March 2nd – 9th marked the 10th year in a row that *Northwestern College of St. Paul, Minnesota* came to La Roca. They all worked hard painting the outside of several of our buildings, installing a new exterior fence and providing lots of great activities for the mothers and children. Everyone is already asking when the group will be back – and we’re happy to say that a handful of them are coming back in May because they had such a blessed time!

Jeanne and Kent came to La Roca in early March and recorded nearly 24 hours of footage with our families at La Roca, as well as interviews at the Co-op and the new ranch. We are in the process of making a new informational DVD about La Roca to share with churches and organizations all the good work that the Lord is doing. We’ll let you all know as soon as it is completed!

Foothills U.M.C. of La Mesa, CA visited this month and continued working on the library project of updating all of our computers. They are installing new software and bringing us up to date hardware. Our hope is to have a library with a minimum of 10 well running and current computers that our children and youth can use for their homework.

Biola University students visited us three times in April. Each time they come they perform dramas, sing songs and do excellent activities for our children and all of the children from the

SERVICIOS ASISTENCIALES LA ROCA

May 2006 Newsletter

community. For May, they are planning a special Mother's day retreat for all of our mothers!

We welcomed 20 youth and 10 adults from *South Pointe Church of Fresno, CA* as well as 3 youth and 4 adults from *Grace Church of Tehachapi, CA*, April 9th – 13th. This hard working group was an amazing blessing to us. They painted the outside of the school buildings, replaced the floor in the kindergarten classroom, repaired the roof on one of the school buildings, put razor wire around portions of the new chain-link fence going up around La Roca, and worked laying concrete blocks and making cement for our newest retaining wall project. One afternoon they went out into the community to share with our neighbors the love that Christ has for them, and three people accepted Jesus! Praise God! Amidst all of that, they still had lots of energy to play with our children. What an amazing group; we look forward to having them back soon!



Jackelinne (5) with her new best friend Jackelinne from South Pointe Church! Our Jackelinne was stuck to her side during big Jackelinne's time with us – as it was so cool to have a big friend with the same name!

Everybody Celebrate! –

April 8th the La Roca Community School celebrated its annual *Spring Carnival*. Each classroom prepared different skits or dances to perform in front of over 400 guests including family, friends and fellow classmates. Many of the neighbors

brought food to sell such as homemade tamales and tostadas. The money that was raised was used for the Day of the Child celebration. The kindergartners all dressed up as different springtime animals and insects; they all looked absolutely adorable! It was a great day for everyone.

The *Day of the Child* is a national holiday in Mexico and was celebrated this year on April 28th. In honor of the day, the La Roca School provided special games and activities for the children as well as fed all of them a special meal including salad, meat, beans, and cake. We are so grateful that we are able to be a blessing to all of these children.

The Power of the 3M's –

Who would have thought that within one month the Lord would bring us three Mexican Men Missionaries to work at La Roca! These men are all excited about the vision for La Roca and want to stay long term. Each has his distinct gifting and area of interest and they have each already made a huge impact on the daily life of La Roca. We are so blessed to have these three young men as positive role models to all of our children and youth. So here, without further adieu let me introduce them:

Erick Rodriguez (29) –

Erick's background is in cooperatives and economic development. In his early twenties Erick started and successfully ran an import/export business from Tijuana and then went to work for the Mexican Government doing the same type of work. He fits perfectly into Pastor Miguel's vision for the La Roca cooperative and is excited about getting plans underway to get it constructed and running. He has also been doing a lot of errands to and from the USA with Pastor Miguel which has helped Guille, the Pastor's wife, tremendously.

SERVICIOS ASISTENCIALES LA ROCA

May 2006 Newsletter

German Olivas Ramirez (27) –

German, a native to Tijuana and good friend of Erick is a young and energetic man filled with a passion to share God's word. He is living at La Roca and has taken over the responsibilities of the church including leading the daily morning devotionals, and Wednesday and Sunday church services. German is so enthusiastic about the Lord and his joy is spreading to everyone at La Roca, especially the youth. He also shares in Pastor Miguel's vision to reach other parts of Central and South America by starting other programs like La Roca in those areas. He is truly a man of God and we are so blessed to have him.

Elías Nava (26) –

Eliás has been a friend of the Pastors family for several years now and has felt the call to come full-time to La Roca. He has taken over many of the administrative duties and since he is fluent in both Spanish and English, he helps with correspondence with groups and helps translate while they are at La Roca. He is willing and able to help in many other areas as well including the church, construction and providing good leadership and guidance to the children and youth.

If You Build It, They Will Come –

The construction projects around La Roca never end in our endeavor to be able to serve more people and to keep our grounds safe. If you or your group would like to get involved with one of these projects, please contact us and we can discuss it further with you. Our current projects include:

A new concrete retaining wall extending along the entire northeast property line of La Roca. This wall will not only stop the tremendous erosion problems that we are having in that area, but will also, once completed, be the foundation for ten new apartments so that we can serve more families. A

group of faithful neighbors have committed themselves to work on the wall through its completion.

Big plans are underway that will include a brand new three-story high school building on top of the current concrete playground area. The building will be elevated to include parking underneath it and will have twelve classrooms, two restrooms, an office area and a gymnasium. Keep your eyes and ears open as you will be hearing much more about this exciting plan in coming months!

A new chain link fence has been installed along two sides of La Roca and will eventually surround the entire property. The fence includes razor wire and barbed wire running along the top as an extra deterrent to would be intruders. We would also like to install a security alarm system to alert us if anyone is trying to get in without our knowledge.



The new chain link fence surrounding La Roca.

Church –

With German now leading the church many wonderful changes have been taking place. First of all, we now have a Saturday Night Youth group for all of the La Roca youth ages thirteen and up, as well as the youth from the community. Each week German and Eliás lead an age relevant bible study and devotional time and then take the group out for some activity. Last week they all went to the "World of Fun" which is located in one of the local malls. There they played games, went on rides, ate,

SERVICIOS ASISTENCIALES LA ROCA

May 2006 Newsletter

and saw a movie. They all had a great time and experienced good, clean fun. German and Elías are showing the youth that there are appropriate and great things to get involved in for youth outside of the normal drinking parties and events that are so popular with teenagers these days. We praise God for their vision and enthusiasm to show the youth a better way to live.

We have also noticed an increase in neighbors and visitors attending the church. The walls are slowly being broken down in our heart-hardened community.

Clinic –

Dr. Amarillas contacted the Tijuana Center of Health and was able to work out a deal with them for free analysis of Pap smear test packets. Many women had not had this life-saving test done in years due to financial concerns. When the announcement went up at the La Roca Clinic that we could now do free exams, women began coming nearly everyday to receive the exam. The doctor has already seen over 50 women in the month of April!

Happy Birthday – Feliz Cumpleaños!

April 17th – Bruno Mena turned 11 years old!

May 23rd – Monica de los Angeles will be 9 years old.

Tracey and Servants Network, Inc. -

Even though Tracey no longer lives here, she is here with us frequently physically and always here with us in spirit. Since she left in September, she has been back to La Roca three times with groups and has been getting herself ready to lead Servants Network, Inc., the US non-profit that provides for the majority of La Roca's funding and support each year.

As Tracey takes on her new role as Director of Servants Network, she will be speaking to churches

and foundations to raise more support for and awareness about La Roca and the needs of the families throughout Mexico. She also hopes to be able to bring more missions groups to La Roca as she has seen how life changing the mission's trips are on both the people involved with the missions trip and the people at La Roca.

You can look forward to getting more updates from Tracey about La Roca in the future through mailings, a new website, a child sponsorship program and a newsletter with a new look and format. *You will also be able to send your donations to Servants Network, Inc. to receive a tax deduction and be confident that all of your money will be used to support La Roca.*

Please pray for Tracey as she embarks on this new endeavor for La Roca in the name of Christ.

~ Pastor Miguel Villanueva



Gabby and all the families of La Roca say
THANK YOU for all your
love and support!

God Bless You!