



Dearest friends and family,

Oh, where do I begin....? So much has happened in our lives since the last newsletter that I sent out in March. Please forgive me for not sending out newsletters as frequently as I should....however, I encourage all of you to go to our blog and sign up to automatically receive our blog updates. I write a new and interesting blog about once a week about the latest happenings here at Rivers of Mercy, so this is the best way to keep updated and to see great photos of the children and activities.



The biggest news is [the birth of our beautiful daughter, Itzel Kristina Robles](#). Itzel (pronounced “eat-sell” with the accent on “sell”) was born on June 3rd and weighed 6 lbs. 13 oz. I had experienced problems during the pregnancy and had to live with my parents for almost two months in order to get the rest I needed, but in March Joel and I were able to rejoin everyone at the orphanage since things were going well with the pregnancy. The Lord answered our earnest pleas and protected our precious baby, and she was born full-term as healthy as can be on a Thursday, June 3, 2010. After the birth, we then spent the weekend in Las Cruces, NM, with my family, resting. We brought Itzel home to the orphanage on Monday. She is light-skinned (but darker than Joel), has lots of dark brown hair, has gray/blue eyes, and looks so much like her older brother! It is amazing how quickly Itzel is growing. She is such a good baby and is always laughing and talking (“cooing”) to us. Joel is very loving to his sister. We are delighted with our baby girl and so thankful to the Lord for keeping her safe. She truly is our “miracle baby.” Thank you all for your prayers.

In April, we held an “[Easter Bash](#)” for the children in the neighborhood around the orphanage. After all the kids participated in an outdoor egg hunt, we taught them the true reason for the celebration of Easter using “resurrection eggs”—twelve colored plastic eggs, each containing a different object relating to the Biblical story of Jesus' death and resurrection. That evening, eight children prayed to receive Christ as their personal Savior! Here at the orphanage, we continue to teach the children from God's Word on a regular basis, and this fills our hearts with satisfaction. Although we sometimes feel discouraged because we do not always see the fruit of our labor, we know that we are being faithful to plant the seeds of God's Word, and we trust that He is working in their hearts.

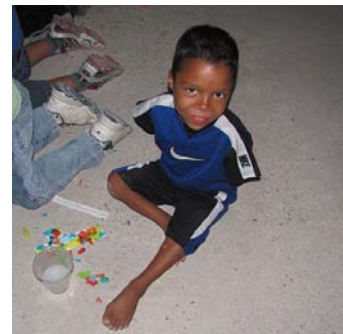
In May we celebrated [our third anniversary](#) as a ministry—it was on May 23rd of 2007 that we received the first eight children here at Rivers of Mercy Children's Home. We had a celebration to remember and thank the Lord for the many wonders that He has done since we stepped out in faith to begin this ministry. We are hopeful that we have truly been able to make an eternal difference in the lives of many children through teaching them about the love of Christ their Savior.

In June, the total number of children we had was low due to many leaving in adoption or returning to their family, so, within a span of a few days, we received fourteen [new children](#)! A couple of the new children proved to be very challenging for us to work with, but immediately we began to teach them the foundational truths of the gospel through daily Bible lessons. When it came time to invite the children to pray to ask Jesus to save them from their sins and come into their hearts, many of the new children did so. We're currently teaching them how they can grow to know and love God more each day, through reading the Bible, praying, confessing their sin, telling others about Him, and more. We currently have 24 children.



“Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.” Proverbs 16:3

Summer here has been busy but fun—in August, Martha (our right-hand helper here at the orphanage) and I coordinated and prepared a Vacation Bible School (VBS) program for our church and five mission churches of our home church. Then we were teachers at the [VBS at our home church](#), and we had a record-breaking year! On the third and final day of VBS approximately 250 children and 50 women attended! Everyone who came heard the message of the gospel and many prayed to receive Christ as their Savior. I taught the youngest group of kids and had a blast! The little guy in this picture was amazing. He had no arms but that didn't stop him from participating in everything we did at VBS. He did a beautiful job making the craft using his feet and toes!



We decided to make the most of our [kids' summer break](#) from school and to take them on some sort of outing every Friday. Several times we took them to a large park here in Juarez, where we played lots of different games. The highlight was the hilarious, muddy rounds of tug-of-war (boys vs. girls). One Friday we took them to a large public pool with various water slides and a wave pool. We spent the whole day there and even took our grill so that we could barbeque lunch there! Three Fridays in a row we spent the evening at a special outdoor event for children at a park, where the activities included arts & crafts, sand and water play, go-carts, big inflatable bouncers, fountains to play in, lots of "state fair"-type rides and games, and our children's favorite--a huge pool of oozing, flowing mud that you could actually "swim" around in! Finally, on the Friday before school started, we were able to get a great discount at the movie theater and we took them all to watch "Shrek Forever" at the theater! This was special for them, since some had never seen a movie in a theater before.

Thank you to all of you for making all of this possible—for making it possible for us to care for more children who would otherwise be suffering abuse and neglect, and to love them, teach them about God, and do special things with them. We are so grateful for your support. May the Lord bless you, and may you continue to be a blessing to others.

Love,
Emmis, Kristin, Joel, & Itzel Robles

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<http://riverofmercy.org>
<http://juarezkids.blogspot.com>