

**November 2007** — Hello again to all of our friends, family, and supporters of this ministry. We are so encouraged by how God continues to provide for our needs and to allow us to make a difference in the lives of children who have suffered so much neglect and mistreatment. Though we have been through some trials during the last several months, the Lord remains faithful and we continue to see Him working.

About a month and a half ago we were able to receive three new boys from DIF. Aaron finally has some boys to play with! He had been the only boy in the midst of many little girls for quite a while. The new boys that the Lord sent us are **Lorenzo** (5), **Jonathan** (4), and **Alexis** (?). Then a couple of weeks ago Jonathan's older sister, **Priscila** (6), came to live with us as well. We now have four boys and three girls—this is the first time ever that the boys outnumber the girls! The new kids have come a long way in adapting to their new home and family situation. Lorenzo and Aaron are now great playmates and love to wrestle on the living room floor with Emmis. Jonathan has serious speech problems (related to the trauma that he suffered) and very few of the things he says are distinguishable, but he definitely tries to talk and he is so happy, sweet, and innocent. Alexis is quite a character—we were told by DIF that he is four years old, but he is barely the size of a two-year-old, and since he doesn't have a birth certificate, we are left only to speculate. Alexis ("Chikilin"--"little guy"-- as we lovingly call him) is quite a chatterbox. He is very intelligent and talks a lot—he expresses himself very well for such a little guy. Priscila does not have speech problems like her brother Jonathan, but we are struggling with her behavior. Her passion is riding the new bike that we bought for the kids. It is apparent in all of the new children in their own different ways that they have suffered abuse and neglect. Praise the Lord that they are here with us where we love them, care for them, and teach them about the love of their heavenly Father.

We would like to share with you all about several changes that will be taking place within the next couple of months. For several reasons, Emmis and I will be spending some time in Albuquerque, NM, starting in mid-December, probably for a period of several months. Our baby is due on January 12<sup>th</sup> and we think it would be wise to get away for a period of time around his birth to be able to give him all the care and attention that a newborn baby requires, and for us to be able to get the rest we need during those exhausting months. In addition, Emmis and I need to spend time together outside of the orphanage and continue to work to strengthen our marriage. The first several months of operating the orphanage were quite challenging and overwhelming, and we realize that we need to take some time away to focus on our relationship. The Lord has reminded us that our first commitment is to each other and to our own family and then to the ministry that He has given us. We plan to return to Juarez often for short visits to see the children, make sure everything is running smoothly at the orphanage, and to spend time with Emmis' family.

While we are gone, Pastor Julian and his wife Beatriz (Emmis' parents) will take over running the children's home, with the help and support of Grace Bible Church in Anapra, Juarez. When Emmis



The kids, Emmis and I, and Raul and Monica and family

and I return, Pastor Julian will also have a greater role in helping to supervise matters regarding the children's home. We are also grateful to God for providing a bilingual Christian family, Raul and Monica Rodriguez and their daughters Audrey and Gracie, to help here in the children's home. Their plan is to move from their home in Arkansas to the children's home in December. They will help with the orphanage during the time that Emmis and I are away and possibly longer, Lord willing. Please pray that God would work everything out for this family to be able to come serve Him here.

It is also important that we inform you that from now on, all financial donations for the children's home should be sent to Bridge the Gap in Oklahoma. For most of you, this is the same address you have been sending to, but for those who may have been using the Arkansas PO Box, please use the following address:

Rivers of Mercy Children's Home  
Bridge the Gap International  
P.O. Box 702588  
Tulsa, OK 74170-2558

You can make your checks payable to "Rivers of Mercy". Thank you so much to those of you who the Lord is already using to give financially so that the children's home can continue to operate. We trust that God will always provide for this ministry as long as we are faithful and obedient to do His will. At present, we have about half of the monthly financial support we will need to operate the children's home, and would encourage all of you to prayerfully considering financially supporting the children's home on a regular basis.



Jonathan and Aaron

Finally, through your prayers and support, we would like to share an example on how the Lord is allowing us to truly make a difference in the lives of the children here. Aaron is one of the original eight children that we received in May and is still with us. When he first arrived he hardly spoke a word—we believe that his speech problems were probably due in part to previous trauma and suffering. Aaron was ashamed and afraid to say anything. He is now a happy, confident, and loved five-year-old boy. You would be surprised and delighted to hear him talking with the other children as he plays and you might even catch him singing in the bathroom at the top of his lungs! Praise God!

We are encouraged as we remember all that the Lord has done and all the miraculous ways in which He has worked to bring us here and to establish this ministry, and therefore we have faith and confidence for the future. We wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!

In Christ,  
Emmis & Kristin Robles