

# Street Child Acapulco

August 2007

## Jamie and Jennifer Burkemper

Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo  
(Brothers and Sisters in Christ)

It is hard to believe that in one week we will be celebrating our first year anniversary on the field here in Mexico. It seems like just yesterday we were sitting in the hospital with John finding out how bad he had broken his arm for the third time on the day we were leaving for Mexico. And that we would have to wait to leave for Mexico once again. God has used all of our experiences to make us stronger in our faith for Him and at the same time show us that we had to completely rely on Him for all things. As we look back over the past year it is amazing at what the Lord has done for us as we have learned to communicate in Spanish. He has provided many new friends who have taught us much about our new home and their culture. He has brought us thru many difficult times together as a family and personal struggles as we continue to adjust to life here and continue to learn about the ministry. **We thank you for your continued prayers and support!!**



Jen and Jamie with Alfredo (One of our kids from the streets)

As the last year has gone by very quickly it goes without saying that the summer has come and gone. John and Jossi start school on Monday; we praise God for His direction having found the right school for Jossi and we have decided it will be best to home school John. Please pray for them as they enter the new school year. Summer teams are no longer arriving, which were a great blessing to the Street children and also to us. They lifted us up in many ways as they ministered to the street children and the staff at Sobre el Puente. We want to recap highlights from this past summer for you.



Jossi & Geraldo on the beach outing

To start things off Sobre el Puente was robbed in May and they took everything. The TV, radio, two older computers we used for school time, microwave, clothes, shoes and a lot more. We realized very quickly that some of the kids that we minister to were responsible; which also makes you realize how difficult it is for these children to change and how tight a grip sin has without the freedom we have in Jesus Christ. We see these children singing songs and listening to the word of God thru our ministry but as soon as they leave we also see them go straight to using drugs just blocks from the center. We must trust in the Lord always that the seed we are planting will produce the fruit of faith in His own timing. **“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” Heb. 11:6.** After the robbery we realized that we needed to make changes at the house to improve the security. We made numerous plans to use the summer teams to make these improvements through construction projects.

As we prepared for the teams to arrive, Maggie asked Jen and I to facilitate all the teams who came this summer. Each week we picked up the teams from the airport and introduced them to Acapulco, the ministry and the children. We oversaw most of the activities; Jen oversaw the health of the teams, she helped teams organize the craft times and the outreach programs that we did with the teams a couple evenings each week. I oversaw all of the construction projects, transportation, all the sporting events and we both were available to the teams to answer questions and translate as best we could for them. The first team that came held a Soccer Camp in the mornings and we all went to the beach and learned to Surf in the afternoons. We had a brief testimony and praise time before the camp and we had a great time building relationships with the kids. We had one boy Alejandro who did

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not miss any of the activities with the team and decided to enter one of the shelters after the team had left. The next three teams came for a full week of activities, from construction, testimonies, sporting events, games, crafts and medical clinics. These teams were a great blessing to the kids and served them thru Gods Word, actions and deeds. Jen and I continued to visit families during the summer. We had the chance to do a construction project with one of the teams at one of the families that we visit on a weekly basis. We were able to pour a concrete floor for a new kitchen area. This allowed the family to cook outside under shelter and keep the house cooler. The family has 6 boys from the age of 18 to 3 years old. Please pray for this family as 2 of the boys Giovanni and Ulises continue to struggle spiritually and with drugs even though they have returned home from living on the streets. Also the 3 year old boy (Jaer) has Cystic Fibrosis and struggles with many health issues.



Finished new floor after a morning of hard work

We thank all of you for your prayers during the past year, thru our many struggles and our praises here in Mexico. We are very sorry that we have been slow to communicate our progress, struggles and prayer needs. We would like to inform all of you of some of those situations that we had this past summer and bring you all up-to-date with our current prayer needs.

On one of the beach outings that we did with the kids this summer Jossi had her purse stolen that contained her Glucometer and her Insulin Pump. We searched for hours that night to try to locate it but with no success. She went a week without her pump and it was very difficult for her. We were able to get a loaner pump sent to us and, one of the mission teams was able to bring it from the States. We are now in the process with our Health Insurance company and Medtronic to obtain a new pump for her. We just found out yesterday that the pump warranty has just expired and since Jossi finished her fifth year on her old pump, she is eligible for a new one to be covered under our Medical Plan. However, we do have to cover a 20% Co-Pay of \$1071.72. We will have to pay this as soon as the order is processed in a few weeks. We are talking to the company about their payment plan at this time. Please pray for God's provision for the Co-Pay. Jossi will receive her new pump which will be up-to-date with all the new technology in November when we will be home for the World Mission Conference in Atlanta and to celebrate Thanksgiving with our family in St Louis. We hope to see many of you during this trip. We will be in Seneca SC Nov 18-20 and St Louis from Nov 22-Dec 5. Please contact us if you would like to meet with us.

The other health situation we have is with Jennifer. We are still driving 3 hours to Cuernavaca every 6 weeks to obtain medication for her Chronic pain in her shoulder. So far we have not had any major problems obtaining the medication other than the added cost and time of the trip. Please continue to pray for a better option to obtain the medication. Another health concern for Jennifer is that this past summer she has had a lot of trouble with Urinary tract infections and one test revealed she has a kidney stone in her right side. The infection seems to return after several weeks each time. Please keep this situation in your prayers. She plans on continuing to seek medical help here and will be seeing a specialist in November when we return to the States.

### ***Praise and Prayer!!!!!!***

- Praise that our language skills have improved greatly over the summer and our overall adjustment to life here including the children have adjusted very well.
- Praise that God is working here in many ways and the ministry is helping the children make wiser decisions such as "Flor" who has decided not to terminate her pregnancy and is seeking our help.
- For House parents for the Boys Home and God's direction in the future of the Home.
- For direction as we restart on our new programs of job skill training and ministry to families.

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