

niños DE MEXICO

ESTABLISHED 1967



FEBRUARY 2018

Christmas 2017

Christmas is such a miraculous day. The day we celebrate the **birth of our Savior!** The time we spend with family and friends! That wonderful feeling of anticipation as we look forward to opening a few presents! For many of our kids, it was the first time to experience the day with **love, joy and peace in their lives.** Enjoy these pictures of our kids experiencing Christmas!



Bethel house prepares for the big open!



Genesis boys are looking sharp!



Love that Agape smile!



A feast is prepared at Casa de Niños!



Emanuel with their beautiful tree!



Everyone is grateful for the new Casa Jireh home!



The Bethel house is ready for Christmas dinner.



A host of heavenly angels from Esperanza!



Roller derby for Casa Jireh!



ALDO UPDATE

Many of you have asked how Aldo is doing. We praise God for being in control of this situation! We received a call from the doctors in Mexico City following his recent MRI. They are very pleased with his progress. The tumors are shrinking and they are planning for two more chemo treatments (February and May). Assuming that everything goes as planned, they will be removing the trach and the feeding tube after those treatments.

◀ Aldo is pictured with his housedad receiving his primary school certificate.

NEW KIDS!

It is a rare thing for us to welcome so many new children at one time! Although approval for five of the children was received in April, their paperwork and arrival was not completed until mid-November! We received many requests in October and November about children who were in desperate need of a safe place to call home. When it was all said and done, we welcomed 25 children from December 2016 - November 2017, with 12 of them arriving in the last quarter of the year. We are so thankful for God's hand in bringing each one of these children to our homes and for each person who has stepped up to help make sure that we can care for them in 2018.



#GIVING TUESDAY

Baby, it's cold outside, but our hearts are warmed by the generosity shown through the #GivingTuesday campaign! We met our goal of \$30,000 and that will fully fund our 12 newest kids for eight months!

What that also means is that we need your help to find a lot of new HUGS sponsors in the next eight months. You can help us by sharing this ministry with family, friends and neighbors who may not be familiar with the work we do.

We want to THANK YOU if you already sponsor one of our kids. You can also be an advocate for this program! Our HUGS program not only provides very necessary funds, it also lets the kids know that there are people who truly love them. Sponsors show them the love of Christ through this relationship. The Niños kids know that you are praying for them, and they look forward to receiving a note, letter or pictures from you, their sponsors. A question I hear all of the time is "When are my sponsors coming to see me?" (Consider visiting Niños de Mexico sometime to meet the child you sponsor!) Please let folks around you know how much they can help a child with just \$25 per month.



SPONSOR A CHILD

sign up at

WWW.NINOSDEMEXICO.ORG/GET-INVOLVED/HUGS-SPONSORSHIP

or call

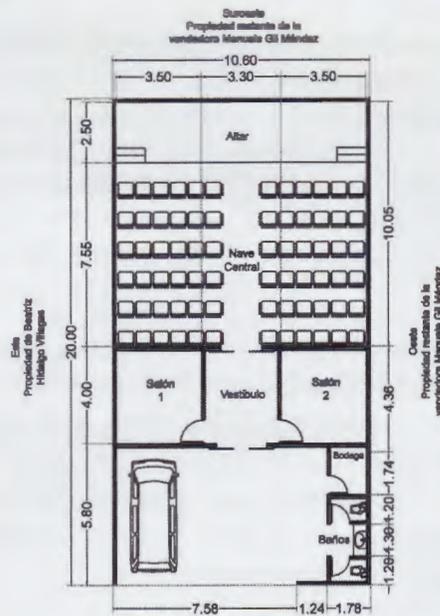
636.583.2000

CHURCH WORK

Puebla Mountain Missions

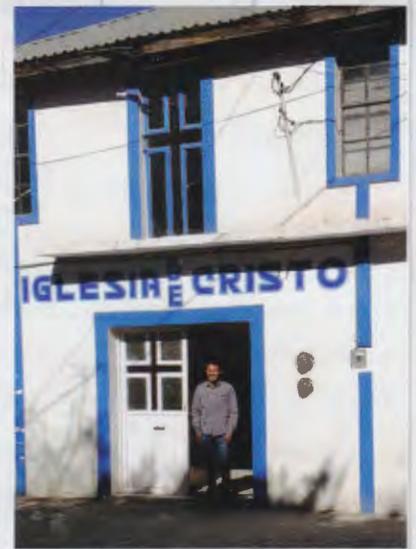
God has blessed His work in the mountains of Puebla in so many ways. Approximately 20 years ago we began the medical outreach to the communities of Chilapa and Libertad. After seven years of work in the community, we were able to help the church build a facility for the church that was beginning in Chilapa. In 2016 and 2017, several churches helped the congregation add a second story onto the church and also helped build movable walls on the first floor that can serve as classrooms for the children. This has given the church much more room to expand.

In 2018, we are preparing to help the church construct a facility for the Libertad community. The foundations and restrooms are being built by members of the congregation. The boys and houseparents from the Esperanza home went to La Libertad in the final days of 2017 to help lay the foundation for the building. In March and April a couple of groups will be going to work alongside the church members to build the walls for the new facility.



Iglesia de Cristo - Muzquiz, Coahuila

Carlos Garcia graduated from Colegio Biblico this past summer. We had assisted Carlos the past four years as he attended Colegio Biblico. He had previously worked in construction and maintenance on our homes. He dreamed about going to Bible College to prepare to minister to others. Upon his graduation, the church in Musquiz wanted him to continue to minister with them. Unfortunately they could not afford to fully fund his salary. We are assisting the church with approximately \$300 per month to help fund his ministry for a year. This has been a great experience for him, and we hope and pray a good experience for the church to be able to have a full-time minister to help them grow and impact their community for Christ.



TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday, March 17, 2018

6:30 to 9:30pm

Fairfield Church of Christ, Fairfield, Ohio

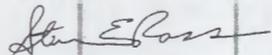
Join us for a night of fun, friendly competition and help raise money for Niños de Mexico!

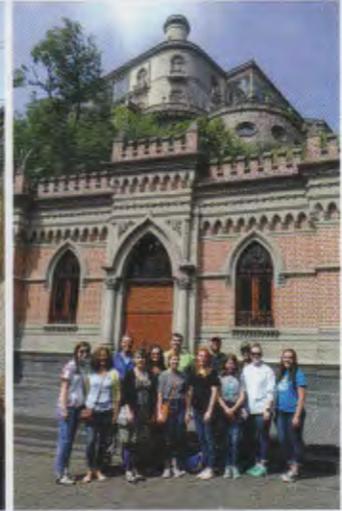
- Individuals: \$15 donation, team of eight: \$100 donation
- Prizes awarded
- Silent auction – prizes and products from local sponsors
- Light refreshments served, or bring snacks for team
- Register: <https://goo.gl/forms/K7QFRCBsmkDyQDTP2> or buy tickets in person in the church lobby starting February 11.
- More info: call Dave at (513) 907-3851

WE LOVE OUR WORK GROUPS

When I think about the things I am grateful for, all of the people that are part of our short term missions trips comes to mind! Through the years I have been able to witness God's hand at work multiple times, in having the right people in place for the many projects that these groups have completed. I would even call it miraculous! As the number of children we care for has grown, so have the facilities we use for all of the different parts of this ministry. With seven homes, school rooms, clinics, administrative offices and storage areas, there is a tremendous amount of buildings in need of constant care and upkeep. Without the efforts of our workgroups, the staff would not be able to focus their efforts on the children. **Instead of having a paintbrush or hammer in their hands they are able to be there when a child needs a hug!** Many hours are spent showing the love of Christ through helping with homework and teaching life skills, like cooking, cleaning, and everything else that is part of daily life in our homes.

So we want to say THANK YOU to all of the folks that have been down to visit this ministry as a member of a short term mission team. You are truly a part of this ministry that we cannot do without!


Steve Ross
Executive Director



MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

In Memory of:	From:
Mike Chartrau	Missouri School Nutrition Assoc. Terry & Carol Stine
Glenn Bray.....	John & Janette Allen
Tom & Lorraine Anders.....	Tom & Cristine Anders
Jim & Christine Hawk	Robert Milliken
Howard & Evelyn Scott.....	Geri McCann
Norris Kase	John & Janette Allen
Deborah Stock.....	Joyce Stock
Dave Bradley	Joy Miller

In Honor Of:	From:
Elliott & Doris French.....	the families of Dan French, Kevin Olson, and Bruce French
Maria-Jose Jarrin Acors.....	Tiffany Miller
Sam Nowell.....	Jim & Pat Heaton
Peggy Franklin.....	Beth Conti
Ken & Betty Hill.....	Michelle Owen
Helen Peth's 90 th Birthday...	George & Nancy Sachs

PRAISES & PRAYER REQUESTS

- We praise God for each of the 25 children who joined Niños from Dec 2017-Dec 2018 and for how well each one of them is adapting to their new homes and schools.
- Young people who have started their new lives outside of Niños this past year.
- Potential staff from the Mexico Bible colleges we have visited with recently, who may join our staff in the children's homes or in our church plants.
- Construction at the Jireh house that will add four new bedrooms and two bathrooms, allowing us to care for more children in this home.
- Construction that will take place in March and April in Libertad that will allow us to have a great facility and to better reach this community for Christ.
- For all of our children as they pursue their educational goals.
- Pray for our finances this year as we do not know how or if the new tax laws will impact overall giving.
- Pray for God to provide a doctor and another psychologist to come alongside us.
- Wisdom as God opens up doors of opportunity to serve and transform more children.

Did you know?

NIÑOS DE MEXICO IS PARTNERING WITH FINANCIAL PLANNING MINISTRY

FPM is a unique nonprofit partnership of ministries dedicated to providing members with a path to sound biblical stewardship through their estate plans. This 90-minute presentation provides clear and accurate information that cuts through the misinformation and helps members avoid unnecessary and costly mistakes in securing their loved one's future.

George Carlin would have been a great pitchman for estate planning. You may remember his stand-up routine on "stuff." We all have stuff, and we're pretty particular about our stuff. We move it around with us, it's hard for some of us to get rid of it, and some of us don't like our stuff mixed up with other people's stuff.

During your lifetime, you collect a lot of stuff, some of it valuable and some of it not. But because it's your stuff, it means something to you. You already know you can't take it with you when you die, so there has to be some way of distributing your stuff to other people who are still living. Normally, you want your stuff to go to people you care about... usually your family and special friends, sometimes a worthwhile cause. And you may want certain people to have certain things to remember you by.

When you die, all your stuff, no matter how valuable or invaluable it is, is called your "estate." In the simplest terms, an "estate plan" is your instructions for getting your stuff to the people you want to have it after you die.

An estate plan must meet certain legal requirements, including that it must be written down, it must be signed by you, and it must be witnessed by other people who see you sign it. Your estate plan may be very simple, or it may be more complex, depending on how much stuff you have, how long you want your stuff to provide for the people you care about, and when you want them to actually get your stuff. For example, you'd probably want to wait a few years before that two-year-old receives grandpa's antique pocket watch.

How do you get an estate plan? You decide who you want to get your stuff and when you want them to get it. Your attorney then puts your instructions into a legal document called a will or trust. (There are distinct advantages to using a trust, but we'll save

that discussion for another time.) Also, while you can legally write your own, you're much better off having an experienced attorney do it for you.

What if you die and you don't have an estate plan? Well, there still has to be a way to get your stuff to other people, so the state in which you live has a plan waiting if you don't have one. The only problem is that you won't have any say in who gets your stuff, and someone might get left out.

Example 1: If more than one of your relatives want the same part of your stuff, that can get messy and expensive...and a lot of your stuff will be used to pay the courts and attorneys to sort it all out. (Happens all the time.)

Example 2: If you're not married and you want your significant other to get some of your stuff when you die, you'd better get your plan in place, or it just won't happen. Under the state's plan, your stuff will go to your blood relatives. Period.

Example 3: If you're married and you've got kids, don't be too sure that your spouse is going to get all your stuff. Your kids will probably get their share of your stuff, which means your spouse may not get enough of your stuff to live on.

By the way, if your stuff includes kids, then you've really got to get a plan. Otherwise, the court will decide who will raise them if something happens to both parents.

Scary thoughts? *You bet!*

Bottom line: If you're responsible enough to have your own stuff, you need to be responsible for making sure what will happen to it after you're gone.

We'd love to schedule a seminar with our friends at Financial Planning Ministry for your congregation. This would be a great opportunity to help you and others in your congregation work on your estate plans. Contact me (417) 499-3983, mick.ohanahan@ninosdemexico.org, and we will work out a time for a seminar.

Mick O'Hanahan
Development Director





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Please help us out by sending us your email address! This will allow us to keep you updated on all that goes on by receiving our monthly e-newsletters. It will also enable us to send your receipts and other update items by email.



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MARIA LOUISA *in loving memory*



Maria Luisa began cooking at the Genesis house in 1975. She worked there until her eyesight wouldn't allow her to see well. She then began to help her sister, Victoria, with food preparation for our short-term mission groups. Her food was legendary among the kids and houseparents that she worked alongside and also with groups that have been a part of the Niños family for several years. In late December, Maria Luisa passed from this life, leaving

behind the many children that she served here at Niños. In her last days, her memories were all tied to the children and houseparents that she served for over 30 years! She will be greatly missed!

FINANCIAL GIFTS enable Children of Mexico, Inc. to feed, care for, and witness to at-risk Mexican children. Without such assistance, this mission work would not be possible. You are invited to become financially involved in this work.

Children of Mexico, doing business as Niños de Mexico, is incorporated in the State of Missouri as a nonprofit 501c3 organization approved by the IRS to issue tax-deductible receipts for the care of Mexican children. For more information, contact Mick O'Hanahan - 417-499-3983 or mick.ohanahan@ninosdemexico.org.