

# RANCHO DEL REY MISSION TRIP LETTER

It was a privilege to visit Rancho del Rey ministry this past month. This was one of those life-changing experiences that will continue to speak to each of us as we process our time with the children and staff. The children's stories were hard to hear, but the loving staff and well-established care for the children was encouraging. The fruit of healing was evident in the children's lives. Their joy, creativity, and playfulness were contagious!

I thank God for each team member. Each of them, gifted in many ways, were willing to serve and be obedient to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It was so fun to see everyone engaged in different types of work; from painting, to teaching the Bible in challenging conditions. I was glad to see how the language barrier diminished day after day as deeper relationships were formed.

For me personally, a short conversation with little Joshua left a deep impression on my heart. While my husband and I were having a planning meeting in the center area of the RDR campus, Joshua, the youngest member of the RDR family, sat next to me and asked me to read a children's book about prayer that I placed on the table. As I started reading the book, "Children, Can You Hear Me," Joshua asked, "Did Jesus grow up without parents?" I continued reading, and then he asked, "Was Jesus poor?" I had never had a child ask these kinds of questions before. It challenged my approach on how to introduce Jesus to children who have suffered from abandonment and poverty. Thankfully, as we continued reading, Joshua saw a picture of Jesus in his heavenly kingdom with a child on his lap smiling at him. The picture captured Joshua's attention as he carefully observed it. As Joshua walked away, he said: "I like that picture, I want to dream about it tonight." Joshua left with a big smile while I was left in awe as I watched the evidence of God comforting and giving hope to this child's heart.

As you know, the OEPC family has been faithfully supporting missions for many years. I believe that our direct involvement in global missions enlarges our kingdom-minded Christian perspective, while challenging our faith and priorities. It's powerful when we witness the transformational power of the gospel in the lives of those who are suffering! Their lives are changed as they find strength and support in refusing a life of addiction, regain their self-confidence as they come to believe that they were purposefully created, and learn to reject the violence done against them and others as God restores their lives. The gospel is powerful!

As you know, OEPC has been supporting RDR for more than 40 years. Through your faithful support, many children and families are given the opportunity to find healing, wholeness and hope in the RDR community. Your faithful gifts have been life-giving! You, the OEPC family, relatives, and friends, were able to donate \$5,500 to Rancho del Rey to complete a multifunctional building to serve the needs of the ministry. In addition to this blessing, the cost of meals and housing were also covered for all team members which was a total of \$4,000. Thanks again for your prayers, words of encouragement, and support. I pray that God will continue to enlarge our vision for the world as we serve in mission work.

Serving Him,  
*Marissa Phelps*  
Mexico Mission Trip Leader