



Donate Now

Signup for Newsletters



WHITE STONE MINISTRIES



August 2011

August has seen summer vacation come to an end and the beginning of school. We are constantly seeing small little victories in the daily lives of the children and we thank God for His faithfulness to these children and to our staff and to Anna and I as we continue to build a home for these children.



In previous newsletters I have told you how DIF (Mexico's Child Protective Services) has connected with us in such a positive way. One of the children that DIF brought to us is Armando. Armando has had a very hard life living in a home where he was terribly neglected. The DIF caseworker brought Armando to us because he had become violent in a previous children's home. When the caseworker introduced Armando to us, he could not look us in the eye and he simply shook with unmitigated fear as Anna and I approached him to greet him. His speech is very slurred and it was obvious within the first minute that this 12 year old emaciated boy, had experienced some horrible things. The case worker told us the story of how the police found him in the street, beaten and bruised with human bite marks all over his body. They soon found out he had been gang-raped by men from a nearby carnival. He was taken to an orphanage that was little help to him and over the months he was there he had become profoundly anti-social and aggressive. Finally he had to be moved because of his aggressive behavior. During the first week he could hardly talk or communicate in any way to any of the staff. In fact, one day, one of the men who volunteer around the home periodically, walked up behind him and put his hands on Armando's shoulders and Armando went into orbit. His fear was off the scale. Over the next few weeks, he began to appear more at ease and I played a little joke on him to make him laugh and now he plays that same joke on me daily...sometimes 2 or 3 times. When the DIF caseworker came about another child she saw Armando laughing and playing with the other kids and saw how he interacted with Anna and I, and she told us she could not believe that this was the same boy. In all the time she had been working with him, she had never seen him smile. We give God the glory for the change in Armando's life. He has a long way to go but emotionally he has made huge strides, and by the way, in the 6 weeks he has been here, there have been no signs of aggression what-so-ever...Praise the Lord!



Armando

Jesus Is Lord

Dining Room Extension

Our dining room extension is finally finished! It is so wonderful to finally have everyone at the table together at meal-time. We no longer have to eat a meal while the staff stand in the kitchen eating and the children eat at the table, crowded together. We had a large set of double doors built on to the side of the extension that opens out onto the front porch. This way, when we have a birthday party or other celebration, the doors can be opened up and the food can be placed on the table in the new addition. Everyone can eat outside on the porch having a large open access to the food.



Girl's Bathroom

School Daze!

With school starting we were faced with several challenges this year. We have several kids that have demonstrated that they truly desire an education. We know that if they were to remain in the public school system, they would not be educated to their full potential. We desperately wanted to see these children educated in a private Christian school but the tuition costs were simply not in our budget. We



have 5 children that we desired to enroll in the private school and when we got serious about this situation, we had only one child, Angel, who had been sponsored already. We prayed that God would help us get the other four, America, Gustavo, Sugey & Eulogio, into school and one by one, all five have been completely sponsored for the entire year! Praise the Lord! The school we have enrolled the kids in, has a high degree of academic excellence and we were a bit concerned that the sudden change from a public school to a school of this caliber might be a bit daunting, but every day when we pick the kids up from school they are so excited about their school and what they are learning. It is such a joy to see kids excited about their education and their future.

The rest of our kids have a way to go before we would be able to place them in the private school. We have 4 children between the ages of 11-13 that are completely illiterate. They can not read, they can not count, some don't know shapes and one doesn't even know his colors. There are no real options for these children so we are attempting to setup a learning center here in the home to help these kids get a basic foundation so they can move forward. They are currently in a public school for special kids, but it is merely a state-run daycare center for older kids. We have been amazed that almost all of the kids, except the 5 in private school, cannot give their full names and they don't know their birthdays. It is amazing that these children have reached their teen years and no one has even bothered to teach them how to spell their full name. Every Sunday, after lunch, Anna has a teaching time with the kids where she has them recite their name, birthday with their birth year, the address to our home and the phone number. Slowly, they are getting it. We believe that soon all these kids will be ready to move forward with their education.



The philosopher Eugene Lewis Fordworthe once said... "assumption is the mother of all mistakes". While I am not so sure that this is entirely true, unfounded assumptions have most definitely caused many problems in every area of life. Stephen R. Covey is quoted as saying, "We simply assume that the way we see things is the way they really are or the way they should be. And our attitudes and behaviors grow out of these assumptions." When well-meaning people make wrong assumptions, great errors in words and actions can be the result, even though there was no malice intended at all. Every human on the planet has been an object of someone else's wrong assumption at one time or another, and usually those ill-assumptions are created by miscommunications and result in bad decisions and/or weakening of relationships, and our ministry is not immune to these faulty assumptions.

Our ministry is growing and thriving but we too have been the object of some wrong assumptions that may have caused some folks to come to the wrong conclusions about our situation and our needs. I would like to address some of these assumptions because if one person has made the assumption, chances are, other folks have made those same assumptions, so I wanted to take just a few minutes and show you what I mean. These are things that have been said to us...I am not making assumptions here (lol).

Assumption: "The Children's Home must be backed or underwritten by a large church or organization."
Fact: All of our support comes from individuals and a few churches. In fact, the largest monthly donations come from individuals...not an organization or a church.

Assumption: "Since most of the children that you take in are sent by the Mexican government, and surely they provide monetary assistance for these children, so the more kids you have, the more income from the Mexican government you must be receiving."
Fact: The Mexican government has never given us 1 Peso...they do not support these kids in any way.

Assumption: "You folks don't need anything...I just looked in your pantry and it is very full".
Fact: We had just come from the local Food Bank so the shelves were indeed full, however, at the Food bank we pay for boxes of miscellaneous canned food by the pound and these items are random products. Our ladies have to be very inventive cooks to use some of the canned items...beets, asparagus...etc. So for a relatively small amount of money, when food is available, we can buy a lot of canned goods. We don't always shop at Walmart.

Assumption: "The children are so happy and well-behaved; it must be relatively easy to care for them."
Fact: Our children have experienced some of the harshest treatment children can endure. The abuse ranges from neglect and hunger to rape, incest and one child was even found in the street after a group of carnival workers gang-raped him and even left bite marks all over his body. These kids have so many emotional and spiritual problems, so providing care for them and creating an environment where they can find the help and healing only the Lord can provide is a job that takes every bit of time and energy that the staff can muster.

Assumption: "The cost of living in Mexico is so low, you folks should be able to care for your kids on a lot less than if they were in the States."
Fact: That may be true if we were deep in the interior of Mexico, but very few things are cheaper here on the border than in the US. We still have to buy many of our clothes at flea markets, and the grocery stores are almost on par with Walmart. In fact, many Mexicans travel across to Del Rio to do their grocery shopping because they can get better quality for almost the same price.

folks have asked these questions or made these statements directly to us, I "assume" that they are probably in the minds of others and have simply gone unspoken. There is just one other assumption I want to address:

Assumption: "It sure does look like God has His hand on the children's home."
Fact: That's one assumption I can say is unequivocally correct. God's blessings are continuing to sustain us and carry us forward. He has given us great favor with people in the area. He has brought provision to us in some miraculous ways, and He has connected us with some of the most amazing partners to walk this journey with us. His hand is truly upon this home, the children, the staff, and Anna and I, and we give Him the honor and the glory for allowing us to serve His children.




We want to express our heart-felt thanks to our partners who help us on a regular monthly basis. Our house is filled with children now and our budget has been quite stretched these past couple of months, but we have been able to count on the support from some very faithful people. Our monthly partners are the backbone of this ministry and without their constant, stable support, our work would be very limited.

According to Mexican law that governs children's homes, we have to employ the services of a psychologist. We finally found one that we could work with, but he is not of our faith. He has however, told us he really likes the way in which we constantly keep the children looking to the future and continually help them get their eyes off the past hurts and pain, so he acknowledges that our "system" works very well. We explained to him the Bible tells us in Jeremiah 29:11, that God has a definite plan for our lives and we must continually keep our focus upon His plan. He accepts our way of ministering to the kids, but he made an interesting comment to Anna a few days ago. He said that we give our kids too much...we do too much for them. Of course he bases this upon his experiences in other orphanages and simply doesn't understand why we would want to "go the extra mile" for them. Anna and I both just laugh at the premise that we do too much...we desperately want to give these kids everything that parents want to give their own children. And after all, the Bible says that "God is the Father of the fatherless" so we are simply treating these kids according to who they are...KING'S KIDS!

So I want to encourage you, if you are not a monthly partner, please consider becoming one. You can be sure that your investment in the lives of these fatherless children is bearing fruit now and will continue to bear fruit far into the future...eternal fruit. You really can help change the life of a child who didn't have hope at one time but now is filled with hope. I can promise you upon the authority of the scriptures, God promises to multiply your blessings back to you as you give out of your supply to those who can not care for themselves.

Anna and I love you and appreciate you...and again...THANK YOU!

Blessings,
Dr. Ron & Anna Sherman

Our ministry is in desperate need of a pickup truck or a suburban. Many times we need to pickup donations in Del Rio and I can only use our van, which is very limited because of all the seats.

In fact, right now there are new mattresses and bedroom furniture that have been donated to us and is stored at a church in Del Rio but I am simply not able to haul these items as our van has no space for things like this. So if you have a truck or suburban that is sitting around not doing anything, and you would like to get a possible tax write-off, maybe you would consider putting it to work as a "missionary".

Email
drron@whitestone.ws

Contact Us
 U.S. Cell - 830.488.3928

U.S. Mailing Address:
 White Stone Ministries
 807 B Veterans Blvd.
 #151
 Del Rio, TX 78840

www.whitestone.ws

Casa Hogar Manto Coahuila Children's Home is operated by White Stone Ministries, Inc. White Stone Ministries is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization so all contributions are tax deductible.

"Projects" List

If you or your church group would like to invest some time, energy & expertise in helping us with our goal to make a functional and beautiful home for the children, then please let us know and we can talk about scheduling a time that is convenient for your group to come.

- Painting – *many places inside and outside*
- Secure outside stairs
- Re-hang several doors
- Build shelves in closets
- Install burglar bars on new windows upstairs
- Tile playroom & girl's bedroom
- Install kitchen plumbing & cabinets in cottage
- Build closets/lockers in girl's room
- Build jungle gym
- Build a playhouse and sand box
- Landscaping
- Build a carport
- Build shelves in workshop
- Build several closets
- Build shelves in computer room

"Needs" List

Household Items –

Couch covers (denim)
Toilet paper
Paper towels
Large trash bags
Tall kitchen trash bags
Liquid clothes detergent
Pinesol
Clorox
Hair Conditioner
Deodorant
Hand lotion
Tampax

Furniture –

High Chairs
44 Dining Room Chairs
Chest of Drawers
Small Dresser
Small dining table & chairs
2 Arm chairs
Bookshelves
Kitchen Counter/Sink
Kitchen Cabinets
Refrigerator
Bean bag chairs

Tools/Maintenance –

Cordless hammer drill

To our South African Family & Friends;

If you would like to become a financial partner with us, you can do so by making your donations to our South African bank account. Here are our banking details:

BANK: NEDBANK
ACCOUNT NAME : A M SHERMAN
ACCOUNT TYPE: CHEQUE
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 1737804670
BRANCH CODE: 173742
BRANCH: EASTGATE