

Gabriel House



**Rehabilitation Center for Handicapped Children, A.C.
Calle Luis Echevarria #292; Maneadero, Parte alte, B.C., Mexico
A project of Mexican Medical Ministries, Inc.
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June 22, 2006
Newsletter from Gabriel House

Greetings!

Today is a good day. We go to General Hospital and bring Maria Guadalupe, (Marilu), home, after her two month stay, and two surgeries.

We urgently seek your prayers. Marilu is a tiny baby girl. She is ten months old now, but she wears clothes the size of a newborn. She has Downs Syndrome, and many internal malformations that make it necessary to have an external tube that drains her urine and a feeding tube because she does not have the strength to eat all that she needs to thrive and grow.

Unless Jesus intervenes, Marilu will not live long. We feel so privileged that God would entrust us with such an awesome responsibility. We ask your prayers for our staff. Please pray that they will not be afraid to touch and hold her. Loving touch is nourishment to the spirit as food is to the body. Pray that God will heal her infirmities and give her a quality life. Pray that we will all be up to this challenge.

Beto, (Alberto) has returned to his family in Colonia Vicente Guererro. Beto has been in the care of Gabriel House for almost 6 years. Recently Renie and Lupe escorted Beto to his family who welcomed him with tears of joy and open arms. Some of our older boys have become a danger to our smaller children. They become agitated and hit the smaller ones, and they have developmental problems that surface at puberty. We are facing the awesome task of finding suitable homes for adult handicapped who present a danger to our younger children. Please pray for us to find suitable and safe situations for them. Pray for missionaries that may want to be forerunners in this huge need in Mexico. We are also seeking a home for Victor. Please pray that we will find one. He presents a risk to our little ones.

This summer two young women from the US came to help us with our toddlers. Crissy and Becky have been invaluable in developing a program, and implementing it under the able supervision of Jan Crews. Our toddlers are well on their way to being potty trained and learning how to get along in a group. Their vocabularies have improved and they are learning their colors and basic numbers, and how to fold their hands and pray. Our staff is also learning how to sustain the program after Crissy and Becky return to the US in late July after 8 weeks of consistent hard work. Good Job, ladies!

Dan comes to us from San Diego, California. Dan is a school teacher who has volunteered 8 weeks of his summer to serving as a house parent and special needs teacher. If you

have ever spent even one night with Teddy, Rueben or Antonio, you understand what a daunting job it is being a house parent to them, and what a brave soul Dan is☺.

Mark Neafie has been with us since last September and continues to do an excellent job lending his expertise, and pitching in wherever needed.

Mark will be returning to San Diego the first week of September after a full year of service.

Our daughter Stephanie Armstrong, and granddaughter, Jessica spent two weeks in the Pacific Northwest visiting family, and getting some well earned rest. They have both returned and are ready and willing to resume the work as house parents of Angels Wing.

Kim Garcia is house mother to two of our smallest residents, Chloe and Lydia. These two adorable baby girls are thriving under Kim's care and supervision.

Neither Kim, nor Stephanie is supported by outside sources. They both receive a small donation from Gabriel House and their room and board. In case God has already touched your heart to do so, support can be sent to them thru Mexican Medical. Make checks payable to Mexican Medical with either Kim Garcia's or Stephanie Armstrong's name on the memo line. I know God will bless you for supporting His workers in His service.

Ted's health is improving, Praise God! He is looking forward to a surgery that will improve his quality and length of life. He has had some major health challenges this year, but God is faithful. We ask for your continued prayer support for both Ted and Renie's health.

A small home has become available between Gabriel House and Angel's Wing that would suit Renie's and Ted's need for more space, level ground to accommodate Ted's weakening legs, and a bit more privacy. The house is being made ready at this writing. This will give more room for expansion for the children into their old two bedroom bungalow apartment.

We have started some much needed renovation on the main house.
We are praying for the following needs for the completion of the project:

Needs for commercial kitchen;

- 1 range hood with exhaust fan (sufficient to cover an 8 burner double oven wolf range.)
- 1 4'X 6' stainless steel work table
- 15 6'X6' metal (stainless steel shelves sustains 600 pounds, \$79.00 at Costco).
- 1 stainless steel shelf to be mounted above dish washing sinks for large pots.
- 2 double deep sink units with counter space at each end (I have one already. I need one more)
- 1 hanging pot rack
- 2 power sprayers (I have one I need one more)
- 1 hand crank can opener
- 1 large capacity mixer with bread hooks
- 1 ice machine one that produces 50 pounds of ice per day.
- 2 vita mix blenders
- heavy duty cooks knives
- 4 magnet strips for hanging knives
- 2 poly cutting boards one for chicken, one for all purpose
- 1 meat and cheese slicer
- 6 hanging fluorescent tube light fixtures
- 3 mop buckets with wringers

Handicapped bathroom and visitors bathrooms needs:

- 2 shower set ups with extra long hoses
- 1 wall mounted sink
- 1 6' Formica counter
- 2 bathroom sinks with faucets
- 6 toilets
- 6 toilet paper holders

1 chrome wheeled shelf to hold towels and supplies in bathroom
1 ceiling exhaust fan

We are praying for more American Missionary volunteers. Mexico is just beginning to see the need for special care for their handicapped. Gabriel House and Ted and Renie are on the cutting edge of this evolution into quality care for handicapped children in Mexico.

Elections for the new President of Mexico are taking place. Please pray that God's man for Mexico will be put in place. We have the favor of the Mexican government, and our opinions and help are being sought. We thank God for this. He has placed in our hearts a great love for the Mexican people and a respect for their laws and their Government. Please pray that the new president of Mexico will be open to continue care of the handicapped, and to American Missionaries.

American Missionaries that come with their own support base and a willingness to submit to established leadership and roll up their sleeves are welcome. A background check is required. God can use us to change our world His way if we are willing to be used. Just the fact that we were raised in a country that believes in quality care for our handicapped, puts us in the forefront of being able to change the thinking of other countries who may not have had such resources or knowledge.

Anyone interested in becoming a missionary at Gabriel House should contact Mexican Medical at the address below.

We prayerfully seek your financial support. Gabriel House is a 100% faith ministry. We believe God will touch the hearts of those He wants to use to keep Gabriel House going. The monetary figure that we believe God for every month on an ongoing basis is \$20,000.00. That just maintains those programs we now have in place for our present 42 children.

Where does that money go? We pay a Mexican staff of 33 persons who help us maintain the care and welfare of the children. Our Mexican staff is not able to volunteer. Many of them are heads of single parent households with two or more children. We pay a wage that is above the prevailing wage of the area, and we offer them a donation of food on a weekly basis. (God is not cheap, and we want our staff to know this.) We pay for all of the medications the children receive, (with the exception of the medications for the AIDS children), a cost of \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 per month. We buy 200 diapers per day if they are not donated. We pay over \$1,000.00 per month in work benefits to our Mexican staff. We pay for most of our children's doctor and dentist visits, (very few are given free). We pay over \$3,000.00 in rent and electricity. We pay out \$1,000.00 per month on propane to run our cooking stoves, heat in winter, and clothes dryers. (The sun does not take care of all our clothes drying needs). Our drinking water cost is \$400.00 per month. Gasoline, car maintenance, and vehicle insurances for the US and Mexico cost about \$1,000.00 per month.

We recently came under the umbrella of Mexican Medical as our 501-C non-profit because we did not have the resources to pay a bookkeeper and have a yearly audit. (These things are required by law and by some donors). Mexican Medical also took over the time consuming task of scheduling our groups.

Once again we remind donors to make checks payable to Mexican Medical with Gabriel House on the memo line. This is the only way we can give a tax deductible receipt.

That address is:

Mexican Medical
251 Landis Ave
Chula Vista, CA. 91910

Any one wishing to visit Gabriel House **must** make arrangements with Craig Libby at caravans@mexicanmedical.com or telephone (619) 420 9750. We no longer accept drop in visitors. If you do not make arrangements through Mexican medical we cannot accept your visit.

We have had some very serious accidents involving our children in the recent past. You must be made aware of our new rules and codes before you come. We know of no other way to keep our children safe than to insist that you schedule every visit through Mexican Medical, in order to keep abreast of the most recent developments, in Mexican laws, border crossing information and new developments with Gabriel House.

We no longer allow visitors and visiting groups that do not make arrangements through Mexican Medical.

Do you know that Gabriel House has a dress code and rules that will keep you and our kids safe?

Are you aware that your vehicle can be confiscated for bringing the wrong things into Mexico, or the wrong quantity of certain items?

Did you know that by Mexican law it is mandatory that you buy Mexican Auto Insurance for your vehicle for the duration of your time in Mexico, and do you know where to obtain it, and the legal coverage that will keep you out of Mexican jail in case of an accident?

Do you know what to do or where to go if you have a medical emergency while in Mexico?

Do you know what legal documents you need to enter and leave Mexico?

These are very important questions and we want you to have the best of care and information to make your visit to us safe and enjoyable. This is part of the reason why we have coordinated with Mexican Medical.

Craig Libby has all of this information for our visitors. He has painstakingly worked with us to put together a visitor's packet that will give you all the information you need to have a safe and successful trip to Mexico, and to Gabriel House.

We care about you and we care about the safety of our children. Please comply with our request that you coordinate your trip to Gabriel House through Mexican Medical.

God bless you and have a wonderful summer.

Love in the mighty name of Jesus,
Ted, Renie, and the children and staff of Gabriel