

Newsletter February 9 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The year 2006 was a bittersweet year for Gabriel House. We had extended periods of financial deficit that caused our wonderful staff to go a month or more without pay and on more than one occasion. We also saw our storehouse go down to practically nothing on the shelves. We let our supporters know about our financial difficulties and many stepped forward not only to cover the back bills, payroll in arrears but also to meet current needs. We were also forced to make some decisions regarding the number of children we had in residence and some of them with responsible parents were sent home.

During the same period Ted experienced a heart attack; he had a stint inserted in his heart and was diagnosed with a debilitating and progressive disease that is sapping the strength from his lower body. Ted and I prayerfully made the decision to stay in Mexico and at Gabriel House. As Ted says, "What better place to be when your legs quit working and you need a wheelchair to get around than in a handicap-friendly facility with ramps!"

It was a tough year to say the least! You've heard that old saying, "When life gives you lemons. Make lemonade!" That is what we have attempted to do.

Our landlords made the decision that if we could not buy the present site (we have rented here for 9 years) that we must move by March 30, 2007.

Knowing we needed to look for a new place to live, we began looking in the Maneadero area for something suitable. We were reminded of a property close by that had some possibilities. Though it was a beautiful property on  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre and at a good price at \$175,000 it did not seem big enough to meet our present needs. Then the Lord began to work in our circumstance and the Lord brought Angel Baeza into our lives.

Angel is a paraplegic man who has not only overcome the adversity of his handicap but he has a heart to help others who are disabled. His courage and fortitude are inspiring. He is an extremely gifted inventor, welder, jewelry maker, stain glass artist, wood carver, carpenter, upholsterer, and athlete. He participates in the bike run every year that goes from Rosarito Beach to Ensenada on a hand-crank bike he designed and built.

Angel has a passion to help the handicapped help themselves and was very excited about joining our ministry in some capacity. When he learned of our dilemma he began to search for property in the San Vicente area where he lives just 40 miles south of us. He unearthed some pretty interesting prospects and we began to prayerfully ask God, "Lord, do you want us in San Vicente?" As we spent time in prayer and time with Angel and our board, we realized that if we could rent a property in San Vicente and purchase property here; we could begin the school for the able learners in San Vicente that we had always dreamed about and could make the infirmary and clinic here, keeping the profoundly affected children in Maneadero near the hospital.

We have rented a four bedroom house in San Vicente. As you read this letter, Angel and some volunteers from his church in San Vicente are tearing down sagging drywall from the ceilings, preparing for new ceilings and roofing. A little paint, a little plaster, and soon Gabriel House 2 will be ready to house seven of the boys here that have the ability to learn the skills Angel can teach.

Both Angel and his wife Rachel have experience working with children. They both formerly worked at Christ for His World Ministries in Vicente Guerrero. They are willing to be supervisors for Gabriel House 2 in San Vicente. With the financial obligation lessened here for staff, we can employ some help there to meet the needs of those children.

God has confirmed over and over this move, and the second house by opening doors for donations of roofing supplies and their delivery to our door in San Vicente, to meeting the need for quality Christian supervision in Angel, his wife Rachel and his 18 year old daughter, Iris, plus local Christian volunteers in San Vicente.

Our biggest hurdle was presenting the plan to DIF (Mexico's child welfare department) too see if they would concur. It was as if God waved his hand and the hurdle disappeared. Our plan was met with enthusiasm and their promised moral support.

With some children in San Vicente and some remaining in Maneadero, we are looking at the property again that was mentioned earlier and are in hopes of being able to purchase it. Please pray that all the funds will come in for us to make it possible. Specializing the care we give to the children will greatly enhance their lives.

We still need your monthly commitments to keep going but we are grateful for God's provision. We pray it will continue. Please don't forget us. We need the support of the body of Christ to continue our work.

If you are in the area, come and see what the Lord has done and stop by for a cool glass of lemonade :)

God bless you,  
Ted and Renie Faver  
and the 38 munchkins of Gabriel House