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Missions — Being a blessing or being blessed?

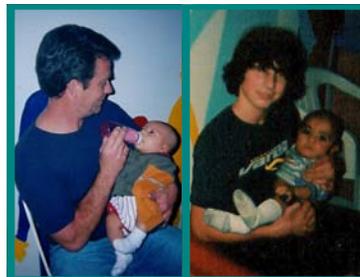
Mexico



It doesn't matter what your age is or if you have a family—you can go on the mission field and come home more blessed than the blessing you were while there.

Marcella Borgschatz of Minnesota spent one month working with the destitute pre-schoolers at El Pozito in Tijuana, Mexico. Marcella says “the best part of my trip was working together with some very special people to make a difference in the lives of many children.” She fell in love with one-year-old Israel (left) whom she nurtured, loved and gave encouraging words so he would eat. While she was there his health improved and he began to gain weight, becoming very active and everyone's friend. Marcella encourages those going on the mission field to be prepared for a challenge. “The work will be hard,” she said, “but rewarding.” She also suggested to study up on the climate so you take the right clothes and other necessities, and to learn some of the language so it is easier to communicate. Even though language was a barrier for her, she managed to communicate through smiles and signs.

Patrick and Anita Rice from Vermont have been on the *Children of Promise* mission field four times—Anita to Guatemala and Patrick to Costa Rica, with their children joining them on two trips to Mexico. The latest trip was at Thanksgiving when they took the whole family to Tijuana, Mexico to help in *El Pozo*. Patrick did a lot of repairs on the buildings and during times of fellowship played his songs for the children. Anita cut hair, filled in for the cook so she could have a day off and helped out in other ways as well. The children enjoyed playing with the children and cuddling the babies.



Above—The Rices taking dinner break at El Pozo. Left—Patrick (L) and Jacob (R) taking their turn with El Pozito babies.

Connie and Tyler Youngkin, *Children of Promise* missionaries and founders of the work in Tijuana, will begin renovating a larger building in which they will be moving both *El Pozito* and *El Pozo*. This move will allow them to care for more children—up to 100. Anita is waiting for the word when the work begins so they can go help. (If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Kathie Fagel at 888-667-7426 or email her at Kathie.fagel@promise.org) Anita has also volunteered to be a voice for the children served by *Children of Promise*. There are many children needing sponsors and many waiting to have a place of shelter with food and clothing and the love of Jesus shared with them.



Caroline Castillo (left) is from New York and has served as a mid-term missionary to El Pozito since the fall of 2005. She cares for the little ones at El Pozito and has won their hearts. She will be leaving El Pozito in the Spring of 2006 and will be entering medical school.

Kenya

A Colorado resident, Sarah Holloway, returned from her short-term mission trip saying, “My trip was amazing. It was also a very humbling experience seeing so many kids in need. The people there have so little and do the best they can. I love the little Cradle of Children’s Hope orphanage. They are raising these kids up to know God and it was awesome to see.”



Grove City College *Promise TEAM*'s, ranging from 6 to 21 per team, have served on the *Children of Promise* mission field since 2002 . Their teams have gone to Guatemala, Costa Rica and Haiti. A return trip to Haiti and Guatemala is planned in 2006.

When asked what advice you would give someone considering going on a mission trip, here is what three Grove City College team members said:

- I would encourage you to be prepared to be changed and to be expecting God to work in your heart and to become attached to the children and humbled as you serve in a place and culture that is unfamiliar to you. *Elizabeth Bryan*
- Make sure you are called to go on the trip. It won't be a tropical getaway, but God will really move and work in and through you. *Stephanie Der*
- Children of Promise International is VERY organized and that is why I had total confidence that we would be safe and well taken care of. I would not have gone to Haiti otherwise. I didn't feel unsafe at the orphanage. We were picked up almost right after we got off the plane, so we weren't left to fend for ourselves. I would definitely plan a missions trip with COPI again. *Becca Waskey*

Costa Rica



Barb with Julio

God often captures your heart for his service during a short-term mission trip. That is what happened to Barb Kofski in 1997 after a mission trip. Her love for Homes of Life in Costa Rica deepened as she began to sponsor and pray for Julio. Barb returned to Homes of Life in 2002 for a 9-month stay, volunteering to teach the two sons of Tim and Dena Stromstad (Directors of the home). After returning to the states in December of 2002, Barb realized she had left her heart in Costa Rica. She also recalled that 40 years earlier God had placed in her heart the desire to work in an orphanage.

With much prayer, Barb knew God was calling her as a long-term missionary to Homes of Life. She sold her home and possessions in the states and moved to Costa Rica.

Barb is a pre-school teacher at the home and serving in many other capacities in the Costa Rica program. The Stromstads say, “Barb is in reality the ‘crack filler’ at Homes of Life.”



The family of Benjamin Rajan, Children of Promise Regional Director in Tamil Nadu, India, incurred many medical expenses during the last months of his life. If you would like to bless the family by sending a donation to help in paying these expenses, your gift would be greatly appreciated.

We invite you to the mission field of *Children of Promise International*. If you or your church group have interest in giving of your time and talents on the mission field, or if you would like to do your college internship at the headquarters and/or on the field—using your educational skills and talents to gain experience for your future—please contact Kathie Fagel by phone at 888 6 ORPHAN or by email at kathie.fagel@promise.org