

Promise UPDATE



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Volume 6 Issue 7

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Empowering Widows

Widows in D.R. Congo and Kenya are eager to put their talents to work so they can take care of their family and themselves. The problem is they need jobs.

Through funding provided by a Children of Promise donor, our ministry partner, Theresa Cox of the *Family Life Resource Center*, has empowered widows to start businesses. In the D.R. Congo and Kenya micro-enterprise projects, the widows are loaned an amount of money to start their business. They prom-



D. R. Congo Widow selling cloth as her micro-enterprise.

ise to pay back the loan in a given period of time. When the loan is paid off, the money is given to another widow to do the same.

In Kenya many widows have been put in jail; some with their little children. Their crime—they were starving and killed a game animal or produced illegal brew. For a price—generally under \$100—these women can be bought out of jail. Theresa Cox is working with a local church in Nakuru, Kenya, buying the women out of jail and setting them up in a micro-enterprise. Since December 2005, seven of the women in this program have already paid back their loans and seven more businesses have been started since May 2006.

Letter of Thanks

"Hello, this is Veronica. It has been great to be here with you at Hogar de Vida in Costa Rica. I am well and feel like a new girl now that I have my new mom. What I liked most about living at Hogar de Vida was that you taught me about God our Father.



Thank you very much! And also for all the friends. I'm very happy."

Veronica came to the home as a disillusioned, sad, empty, abandoned little girl. She had lost her biological parents and after being adopted, had been "returned" to the government system when the family decided 'it wasn't going to work'. God did a miraculous healing and transformation in Veronica's life at Hogar de Vida. Recent news is that she and her mom are continuing to flourish and bond. Praise God for His redeeming blood.



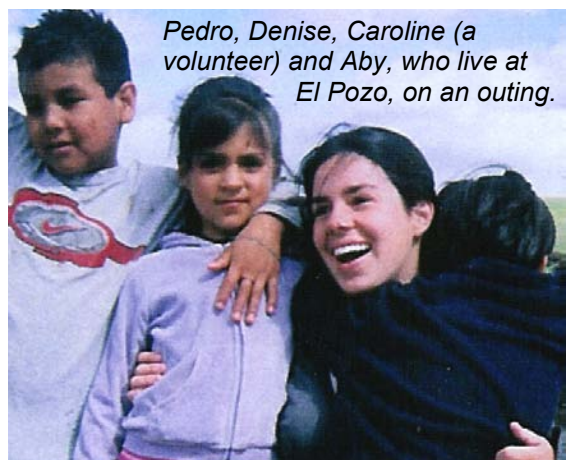
The Purple Palace

Tyler and Connie Youngkin, *Children of Promise* missionaries, have stepped out in faith and God is making things happen. There are hundreds of children of drug addicts and prostitute mothers in the "red light" district of Tijauna, Mexico who walk the streets where corruption is prevalent. They are at risk of being violated, have never been schooled, have nothing to eat, and sleep in places rats find enticing. Current facilities of their mission building, El-Pozo, have limited their ability to take care of the many children who are at risk. The 45 already under their care are doing well but are living in close quarters.

Early this year, they were able to rent a building that had been used as a restaurant. They call it the "purple palace" because it is painted a bright purple and is huge. There is a lot of work to be done on the 15,000 square foot building such as installing more bathrooms, electrical, putting up walls, painting, installing dishwashers, computers, etc. Artists are needed to paint murals. *Strong Tower Ministries* has jumped in to help, but mission teams are needed to help accomplish all the work to be done. There is a tremendous need for electricians. Their plans are spectacular and their faith strong. When finished, the lower floor of the Pur-

ple Palace will have girls' and boys' dorms and a multi purpose room. The upper floor will house tot's bedrooms, craft area, multi-purpose room, computer room, laundry, cantina, kitchen, infirmary, offices, meeting room, volunteer rooms and living quarters for the directors.

Eight-year-old Denise (middle, below), who used to sleep in the Purple Palace with her mother, who is a drug addicted prostitute, before the Youngkin's rented it, had



Pedro, Denise, Caroline (a volunteer) and Aby, who live at El Pozo, on an outing.

never been in school, was dirty, and walked the streets. Now she is living in El Pozo and is happy to be a part of this loving "family." The *Purple Palace* has already taken on a new meaning to her.

Once completed, the *Purpose Palace* will house both El Pozo and El Pozito with the capacity for 100 precious children who are at risk.

(Contact Kathie at 888-6 ORPHAN or kathie.fagel@promise.org if you are interested in a mission trip to Tijauna to help on the building project.)