

Emmanuel Ministries

April 2, 2009

Dear Friends of Emmanuel,

I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to share with you the beauty of our God and His love for His children and to tell you about a few of the recent miracles we witnessed on this hill in Cd. Juarez.

For the last two weeks we have been very busy working with friends from Illinois. The Orchard Evangelical Free from Arlington Heights and Evangelical Free Church of Naperville came, one group after the other, blessing us with great acts of love as they painted walls and beds, helped us with our electricity and internet network, moved our laundry room (Yes Raquel has a new laundry!), and played with and loved our children in precious ways. They did crafts and games, helped shower them and tuck them in to bed, took them to eat pizza and play games, hugged and held them and prayed and danced with them. Our children had a blast, but there are two stories I want to share with you and I hope they bless you as much as they blessed me.

Alejandro is one of our boys who was placed with us by Child Protection Services a few months ago. When Alex arrived, he would speak with so much foul language and was so violent a couple of our dorm mothers wanted to quit. He was just unhappy, always defensive and angry. We learned that Alex had been in 5 different children's homes throughout the city, and that the social worker had told him Emmanuel was his last chance.

We learned that Alex had been living in bars and hotels with his mother. She was abusive to him and we then realized why Alex behaved the way he did. We began to pray for Alex on a daily basis. Little by little he began to see that no one at Emmanuel wanted to hurt him, on the contrary, we all wanted to love him and give him a home. As the days progressed, Alex began to change every day a little more. When it was time for him to start school, we tried to give him a haircut. He got so upset that we decided to give him more space and didn't send him to school for a few days.

Last week one of the ladies from The Orchard church brought her gift of haircutting to our children. Alex was among the boys that needed a haircut. When I sat him on the chair, I was ready to face another bad episode with Alex. Cindy, the hairdresser, placed a mirror in front of Alex and asked him to show her how he wanted his hair done. She was very patient with him and paid close attention to what he wanted. I saw that Alex began to relax and I watched from a distance. Cindy took all the time she needed to give Alex the haircut he wanted. When she was done, Alex thanked her and left the chair as happy as I had



ever seen him. I don't think it was the hair cut, I think it was the love that Cindy was pouring on him while she cut his hair that made Alex so happy. Thank you Cindy, and thanks to all the amazing people from Illinois who came and poured out their love on all our children and all of us. May the Lord bless you!

Jonathan is a precious 6 year old that was brought to us by his aunt almost two weeks ago. He has 7 siblings. His mom is a drug addict that is lost in the streets of Juarez and had Jonathan lost with her. Her sister looked for Jonathon for weeks until she found him looking for food in a garbage can. He had been with his mom all this time, but she was so high she had lost track of the fact her son was with her. Jonathan was dirty and hungry and his aunt has a large family so she decided to bring him to a Emmanuel Children's Home to help her care for him.



Jonathan was so afraid to stay, he began to cry as his aunt left and he shared with us he was afraid something bad would happen to him in "this place". We gave Jonathan a shower and fed him, we gave him clean clothes and gave him a bed and he went to sleep peacefully. The fear began to disappear. The next morning, he woke up to a busy place full of children getting ready for breakfast, then school, then a bunch of fun activities with "the Americanos" that were visiting. He played and ate, he went to a Pizza Party on a bus full of people who spoke a different language but they were holding him, and hugging him and Jonathan was having a blast.

The weekend came and his aunt came to visit him. This is what his aunt told us. "Jonathan is so happy. He told me he could not believe a place like this existed. He said, 'Aunt, it's like a dream!', so I want to thank you for all you do". What a special thing God did to bring this little boy who was so lonely and scared on this precise week when there was so much extra love at Emmanuel.

I believe God is giving our children dreams and helping them come true through people like you: people from Arlington Heights and Naperville who came to serve here, sponsors who support and love our children, churches and companies and individuals who contribute financially and through prayer, people like you who partner with us and believe that our children are in God's heart and He extends His love through us. Thank you, all of you who are part of Emmanuel and make our work possible. In the name of Alex and Jonathan, and the other 95 boys and girls at Emmanuel, thank you and may the Lord bless you!

With a grateful heart,

Betel Lopez

P.S. - We are working on our website! It is not totally ready yet but we welcome you to check it out. On our "Visit Us" section we mention two "blog" sites from our recent visitors. They have some great stories and pictures.



[Click here to unsubscribe from this mailing list.](#)