

Emmanuel Christian Church

*"Better is **one day** in **your courts** than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the **house** of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked."* Psalms 84:9-11

We praise the Lord for His love and mercy. Our Church like the rest of Emmanuel Ministries has had a year where our cry for His mercy and strength were answered each Sunday. What a mighty God we serve. We praise Him for His love endures forever and during this difficult time we were able to find rest and peace in His presence.

We praise the Lord for giving us the opportunity to be a different kind of church. We have embraced our congregation knowing they are special. Our church is not like every other church consisting of whole families and mature Christians. Rather it is a chapel to the ministry of our children, their families and our employees from Emmanuel Children's Home. God has given us the opportunity for our church to be the tool through which we are able to impart the teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the opportunity to worship him and feel His presence. Our goal is to help everyone that attends Emmanuel Church feel part of a family, part of a group of people who care for each other and where the Love of God is imparted through tangible demonstrations. We have embraced this challenge with enthusiasm and excitement knowing God will give us the wisdom and understanding to be that place where God will meet each and every one of us and fill our hearts with His presence, His mercy, His love and His healing power.



Our church was part of activities that took place city wide in a joint effort to pray and fast asking the Lord to have mercy of our city. Cd. Juarez has been categorized as the most violent border city in Mexico. As Christians we have joined with other churches and pastors in the city doing marches and public prayer meetings to tell our city we have a powerful God who wants to be the King of our city and has the power to change the hearts of men. We continue to pray that Cd. Juarez will one day be known as the city where God and His love reign and we ask you to join us in this constant prayer.



We were blessed with many Pastor friends who visited us and shared the word of the Lord with us bringing words of encouragement and hope during the difficult time our ministry experienced this past year. Sonny Weimer, Mike O'Rand, Ben Sollie, Mark Russell, Russ Haraff, Ed Hudson and other local pastor friends came and shared the word of the Lord and were of great blessing.

One of the most exciting things the Lord did with our church was the ministering of His spirit through the worship, dramas, and prayer meetings on Thursdays that were led by the different summer groups that came to Emmanuel. Through VBS, dramas, teachings, music and prayer our children were able to feel His the presence, a gift we have been praying for each one of our children and all of our church. We had many of our children and teens come to the front and accept Jesus in their heart and many others receive healing of their hurting souls. We praise the Lord for it was all his doing and little by little we are seeing the fruit of His work in our children and all of us.





We celebrated several events like Easter and Christmas, quinceneras and pastors and women's conferences that you will read about in the report of Let His People Dance. Other celebrations where we rejoiced were the dedication of Keylah Gutierrez, Angel and Soco's youngest daughter. They promised before the Lord to raise her in His ways. We joined them in prayer and joy for Keylahs and all the Gutierrez family.



It was our privilege to give special recognition to Mrs. Monica Mata and Mrs. Susana Saldana. They came to our church when they brought their children to the Home. When they began attending our church the Lord touched their hearts and they accepted Jesus in their hearts. It has been 7 and 9 years respectively since they have been part of our church family. They have faithfully attended Emmanuel church, on time, almost every Sunday.

Mrs. Monica Mata was diagnosed with cancer in her uterus two years ago. She had surgery but in the midst of her battle she would constantly request prayer for healing. God was faithful and restored her to full health. She continues to have her children at the Home and attends church faithfully.

Mrs. Susana Saldana suffers from epilepsy, but she continues to seek the Lord and his healing power in her life. We intercede for her each time we pray for the sick and have great admiration for her because she is one of our most faithful members. Our intention as we recognized them was to honor their efforts and faithfulness, they felt blessed and excited to know how much we love and admire them. We pray they can be a great example for all of us but especially for the rest of the mothers of our children at Emmanuel.

Throughout the year we had the blessing to see 10 new people come to accept Jesus in their hearts. Most of them were relatives and mothers of the children of the Home. We praise God we are able to minister to them and we pray their lives are impacted by the Lord in such way that when they are no longer in need of Emmanuel Ministries the seed that has been planted will give fruit and their lives can be different giving glory to the Lord.



We were blessed by the visit of the worship team from World Center Church from mission Texas. We invited them to come to give us a worship workshop. Their time here was of great blessing as they gave us teaching and practical techniques for our worship team. It was a wonderful experience for it inspired many of our teens to join our worship rehearsals and expressed their desire to be part of the worship team. Today our worship team consists of several teens and is impacting the rest of the children and teens at the church helping them feel less intimidated to express worship and their love to the Lord. Thank you friends from World Center!

Our Sunday School was an active part of our church all year giving us the opportunity to teach our children at their different levels. Pastor Josue Lopez- teacher to the adult class, Armando Uribe, Keren Lopez, Luz Portillo, Sonia Tapia are all part of our Sunday School teachers for the children and teens, who Sunday after Sunday make a great effort to teach the children bible stories that apply to their lives and can practically make an impact in our children's heart's and minds.



Our women's group was active selling food and doing other activities to help our church economically and getting together on Tuesdays to pray and encourage each other. With their help we were able to continue the addition to our church. We tiled the new kitchen and one of the storage rooms and did extensive plumbing. There is still much work to do but we believe with God's help we will keep on working until our addition is complete.

We pray for the Lord to continue to use Emmanuel Church to praise Him and impart His word to all who join us, pray for our city.

I want to express my thankfulness to the leaders, elders, and deacons of Emmanuel Church for taking care of all the activities in the church during my time away. I trust the Lord will give them the wisdom and experience to continue to care for the congregation as the Lord gives me more and more the opportunity to help the evangelical leadership in our city and in the



south. I feel deeply moved to work encouraging other pastors towards the unity of the body of Christ and I am so thankful for the results we are seeing in our city as more and more pastors unite to fight together for the Establishing of His Kingdom. My prayer is that the Lord will continue to grow each one of us more and more in what our calling for our life is at this time. I know Emmanuel Church is not a regular church, is more a chapel for Emmanuel Ministries and that has been the Lord's will. This leadership has a heart for the children and the hurting mothers and relatives of the children that come to Emmanuel and I can see is a special opportunity to minister their lives during this time. As for me, you know I have always prayed for the opportunity to share with other pastors about the Kingdom of God and the unity of the body of Christ and I see that as something I must do more than ever, our city needs it, the coming generations need to see a united front against the forces of evil. May the Lord give us all the wisdom and strength to answer our callings at this time.

In Christ's Love and at His service, Josue Lopez Luna