

May 1, 2008

Dear Friends of Emmanuel Ministries -

I hope you and your families are experiencing the blessings of the Lord. I want to thank you on behalf of the Lopez family and the ministries of Emmanuel for all your work, resources and prayers during the different times and seasons Emmanuel Ministries has been through over the years.

It seems like this season for Emmanuel Ministries may be a difficult season, but I know God is faithful and He is going to turn this situation to good - because we love Him. He works all things for good for those that love Him. It is His nature to bring beauty from ashes.

In mid-March Jonatan Lopez was arrested for gun trafficking and is no longer the leader of Emmanuel Ministries. Juan Avelar, Kirsten's husband, and Alfredo Amador, a friend of Jonatan's, were also arrested. The investigation regarding the arrest is still ongoing so we are not at liberty to discuss it further at this time. We ask that you keep Jonatan, Juan, Alfredo and their families in your prayers.

Betel Lopez, former COO of Emmanuel, has been asked to step in as the new CEO of the ministry. She and Jonatan have worked together in leadership over the past 3 ½ years. She is looking to her father, Josue Lopez, founder of Emmanuel Ministries, for wisdom in this time and he has offered his full support. She also has the full support of the board of directors and Wendy Anderson continues to be Executive Assistant.

I believe Betel needs our support and prayers during this tough time. She is humble, teachable, and carries an understanding of integrity and righteousness that will help her in leading the ministry. I personally am committed to going to Emmanuel more often to help during this transition time. I believe the ministry is built on the Kingdom of God and it will prevail in this season. I know there are others who know and love the work in Juarez who will work alongside Betel and her team to continue in the work to which God calls us.

I would ask for your commitment to walk with Betel and Emmanuel Ministries and to bring your prayer and support during this time. So many positive gains have been made in recent years for the children and we are confident that the Lord has more good things to come. Your partnership is an important part of that.

Blessings and Favor -  
Mike O'Rand  
President of Advisory Board  
Emmanuel Ministries

To follow is the most recent newsletter from Emmanuel Ministries.



# EMMANUEL MINISTRIES

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May 2008

## From the Desk of Betel Lopez

I have lived at Emmanuel my whole life, working as part of the leadership since 1996. Living in the midst of a ministry where children in great need are cared for through the provision the Lord would give each day through His Body, all of you, has been a blessing to my life. The Lord has allowed me to see the daily miracle of His provision. Today I stand in awe that not only has He provided our every need for the last 45 years but that His grace and protection have overseen our daily activities for the sake of the hundreds of children that have passed through this children's home. Children and whole families have passed through here for decades, people that the Lord has visited with His amazing love and redemptive power.

My father, Brother Josue, has always taught us that this ministry belongs to the Lord and that He is the Primary and Excellent Director, and all we are to do is have open hearts to serve in the different gifting the Lord has given us. He has taught us that we are to live a life so that the world will know about His love and will so our communities can be changed. That is where I stand today, asking the Lord to use my life as He wills for His service in this time, in this ministry.

I feel privileged to continue the work my father started back in 1963. I feel privileged the Lord wills to use me to continue caring for children who's lives He wants to impact and change through His love and mercy. I want to express my gratitude for all the prayer and support our ministry and family has received during this last month. God's mercy and grace have been imparted through our friends and family in the body of Christ giving us strength and hope in the Lord. In these last weeks we have once again seen the Lord's mercy in such a way that it has humbled us. We understand in a deeper way that we are but mere servants at our King's court and we are privileged to have been called to serve Him.

Thank you for all your prayers and support and for being a part of the Lord's plan to change lives in Juarez Mexico. On the next few pages you will see how the Lord continues to work in our midst. I look forward to visiting with many of you during our summer season and as we continue to press on for the Lord's sake. God bless you.



## We Celebrate the Resurrection

This year our Good Friday service and Resurrection Sunday celebration took place at a sister church in Juarez, Rosa de Saron. Our dance ministry, Que Su Pueblo Dance, team members from Oral Roberts University, and brothers and sisters from Rosa de Saron combined to share drama and dance depicting the events of Christ's death and resurrection.





## Convoy of Hope

As a sign of God's ongoing provision, the Lord sent a semi full of donations from Convoy of Hope. At first we were a bit overwhelmed, how were 6 women and 1 man going to unload a whole semi full of stuff? The driver, his wife and their granddaughters pitched in and they started the daunting task, one box at a time.

Betel was getting discouraged so she cried out to the Lord and asked for His intervention. We will let her tell the story...

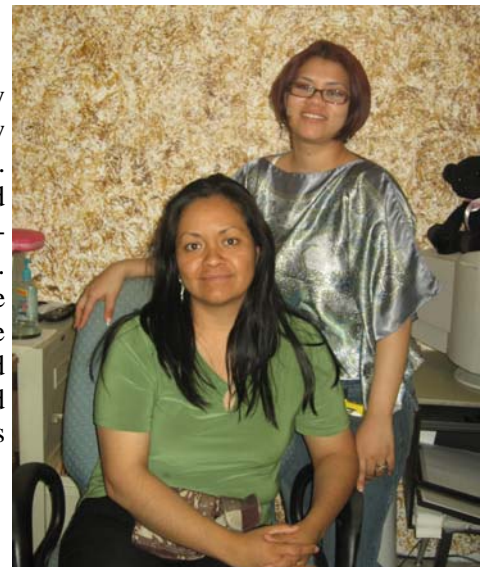
Then I looked at the back of the storage place and there it was, a big warehouse with a bunch of guys and a fork lift. I thought I needed to go ask the manager if I could borrow that fork lift, which could help a lot. I drove over and talked to the manager, Donny, and began to explain "I am the director of a children's home in Juarez, I have been given a truck load of stuff and there are six other women and one man with me trying to unload this thing. Could I rent or borrow your fork lift?" He looked at me completely confused, he started asking what kind of truck it was, and details of that sort. I told him "I really don't know but if you come with me you can see it for yourself and maybe you can see how you can help me"; he said "Ok let's go". We got on his truck, he looked at me and said "why are you doing this, you are not supposed to be doing this" I said "It's a long story, my brother was supposed to do this but now he can't and I need to do it because I have a bunch of children that need this stuff so now I get to do it" we drove to the storage place and he saw what we were doing. He sent a guy in a fork lift to help unload everything from the trailer and 4 other guys to help put the stuff in the storage units. We were done within a half hour.

Then he looked at me and said "you can do this, you have good people around you, you can do this, if you ever need anything else give me a call" he gave me his cell phone and info. I told him "I want you to know that you and your crew were the angels I had been praying for the Lord to send all morning, thank you and you will be hearing from me". When we were done I thanked the driver and his granddaughters, who actually helped a lot, and asked them what their names were and they said "Hope and Grace". Everyone left and finally I was alone and I began to cry realizing what the Lord had done that morning. He had told me "You will be able to do this because I will give you ALL YOU NEED". Something that even in my "independent, self-sufficient female" mind believed only men could do, like unload a semi truck, had been accomplished by women and by His power and grace. I felt that was "the first day on the job" for me. Like my inauguration in sorts. I felt so loved by the Lord that day all I could do was weep. I feel sad and sorry about what Jonatan is going through, but the biggest feeling in my heart is of thankfulness, so much thankfulness. The Lord is so good.



## Emmanuel Children's Home

Things at our children's home are going very well. The Lord was amazing to bring us new internal leadership about two months ago. Luz Portillo is our interior coordinator and Keren Lopez is helping her along with carrying out the duties of sponsor coordinator. They make a wonderful team and we can see positive changes everywhere we look. The children seem to have a sense of peace and order in their lives and we thank the Lord that He has given Luz and Keren such hearts for the children and for one another.



Luz and Keren

## Isaac Newton Academy

Sonia, Jonatan's wife, continues as our Vice Principal at Isaac Newton Academy. She wants to thank all of you who are uplifting her and her children in prayer. She is committed to our ministry and thanks the Lord for encouraging her daily through the Body of Christ and His very presence.

We have had several special events these past few months. We do want to tell you that all of the students are studying very hard as well but pictures of children studying are not as fun as pictures of them doing special activities! Thank you to each of you who pray for our school and have contributed to our school fund this year. We still have room for **sponsors for a class**. If you would like to sign up forms are on our website!



Sixth grade with their Resurrection Sunday projects



Second Graders have a Pajama Party



Volleyball Tournament



6 week award winners enjoy ice cream



Pre-K and Kindergarten Celebrate First Day of Spring



Day of the Woman



Students and Teachers Enjoy the Day of the Child



Medal Winners from Field Day

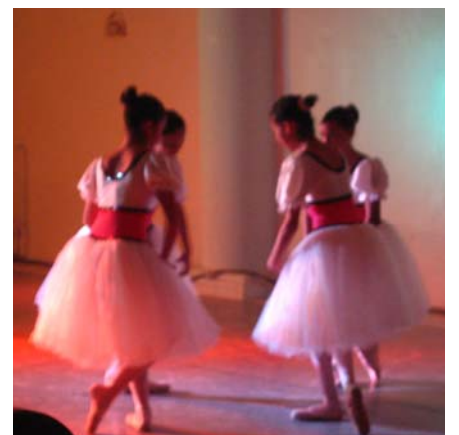
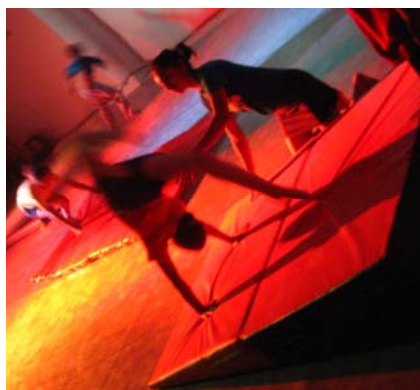
## Emmanuel Ballet Academy

As you can imagine, Kirsten has had a difficult several weeks. She wants to thank everyone for their love and prayers. She is being sustained by God's grace and she knows He is with all of us. The Lord called her to Emmanuel 8 years ago and she believes this is where she needs to be.

We celebrated our **7th annual dance presentation and graduation** last week! The program included ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop and gymnastics. It was fun to have so many boys participate. Thank you to Becca Wilson, Christine Hanson, Whitney Anderson and Velia Dominguez for their teaching and assisting and administrative work. Thank you, Kirsten, for your continued vision and commitment.

Our contemporary dance company, **Cor Ignis**, is busy preparing for their tour. They have performances and workshops scheduled in several places in New Mexico, Texas and Minnesota. The program is entitled "Para Ti, Mujer" and is a compilation of works relating to women's issues. They trust that the Lord will use this tour to reach women for Christ and to encourage women in their walks with the Lord. We ask for your prayers as they rehearse and finalize plans and while they are on the road over the next several months.

Our third annual **Summer Dance Intensive Workshop** is scheduled for July 19th through August 2nd. We have lots of room for dancers and counselors. See our website for brochures and applications. We also still have our "Sponsor a Dancer" program and need more sponsors. Forms for **Sponsor a Dancer** are also on our website.



## Special Visitors

As most of you know, visitors are an important part of our work at Emmanuel Ministries. They help us do a myriad of projects and they provide needed teaching, love and care for our children.

Since our last newsletter we have enjoyed several visits:

### **New Castle Christian Church, Oklahoma -**

Did outreach in the city, worked on some painting projects, and had a fiesta and hot dog party with the children.

### **Mission Team leaders from Oral Roberts University -**

Ministered in various local churches, joined us for our Good Friday service, had a fiesta and hamburger party with the children.

### **“Four Amigos” from North Dakota and Minnesota -**

Went to the South with Brother Josue, Angel and Aaron to help a congregation put a roof on their new church building.

President of our Advisory Board, **Mike O’Rand**, with his wife, **Celia**, and daughter, **Jennifer**—came for fellowship, prayer and encouragement.

**Mark Russell**, member of our Advisory Board—came for fellowship, prayer and encouragement.

Our new friend, **Jeff Kuberka**, Minnesota—found us on the internet and came to spend a day with us. He painted the TV room and joined us for Sunday worship.

**Toria** and **J.D. Neb** and her parents, **Sonny** and **Darlene Weimer** came for fellowship, prayer and encouragement. Toria is on our advisory board, Sonny was on our board for many years.

Our Spring and Summer are historically very busy. We have had some groups cancel for this year because of the situation in Juarez but we are confident that the Lord will bring the groups He wants to be here this year and that His work will be done.

### **Update on Reyna and Rosy**

Sister **Reyna** is doing very well and has returned to work with us on a part time basis. She is so thankful that the Lord has restored her in such a way that she is able to care for those she loves. Thank you for your continued prayers for Reyna.

**Rosy** is recovering as well. She is at her aunt’s house in El Paso, has a lot of strength, and hopes to move back to Juarez in the next month or two. She is so thankful for the love and prayers and asked us to send her love to all of our newsletter recipients.

## **THANK YOU, THANK YOU**

We cannot thank you enough for your continual outpouring of love and grace to us at Emmanuel. Your care for us and the children God has entrusted to our care has been overwhelmingly evident these past six weeks. We ask for your prayers and support as we move forward in the ministry here in Juarez. The Lord wants to transform lives and we ask Him to work in each of us to better equip us to do His work. Your prayers and financial support are so important and we thank you for your partnership.



**Oral Roberts Team Leading Songs**



**Jennifer, Celia and Mike O’Rand**



**Josue, Soledad and Jeff**



**The Children Enjoy a Puppet Show About Safety Performed by the Local Police**