White Stone Ministries

Newsletter
December 2023

Casa Esperanza
Children's Home
Giving Love...Instilling Hope...Changing Lives!

www.whitestonekids.org

Season's Greetings in the Name of the Lord!



Christmas begins with Christ ... O come let us adore Him!

We have experienced so many wonderful things in the lives of the children who have found a home with us this past year. It would have been impossible without the help and support of so many caring and generous people! It seems like the years are moving faster because it doesn't seem like a year ago that we were caught up in all the Christmas festivities and events. Every year, we have church groups that come and bless the kids and our staff, and this year is no different. We thank God for the people who help make this time of year so special for our children.

Until a few years ago, Christmas was quite stressful for Anna and I. Groups would ask for our kids' details so they could shop for the kids and then bring or send wrapped presents across the border. This was quite a hassle for some of the groups because when the Mexican Border officials saw boxed items, in many cases, they required that the boxes and bags be opened for inspection. That was so disappointing for those groups who spent a lot of time and energy shopping and wrapping all those gifts.

A few years ago, we tried an experiment with the church that we fellowship with in Del Rio.

That church, Grace Church, with pastors Terry & Dorcas Maris, had been faithful every year to bless the children with Christmas presents. I suggested that instead of the church dividing up the names of our kids and then raising the money for each child, then shopping for the presents, and then finally wrapping all the gifts, they simply collect the money that the congregation donated and bring the money across and then take the kids shopping for themselves.

This was a major success!

Many of our kids had never even been in a big store, and most had never been able to shop for themselves. The church had the added benefit of not having to spend all the time and energy to shop for gifts and then transport the gifts across the border. So now, there are several churches that have adopted this approach to bless the kids. It is really a blessing for the individuals or groups that live a distance away from the border, which prohibits them from making a trip here into Mexico.

An added benefit of avoiding bringing boxes of presents is that we are not subjected to the **extremely high tax of 19%** that Mexico charges for bringing items into the country.

Another option…instead of individual gifts for each child, a group or church could send one gift that would allow us to purchase several more costly outdoor play equipment that all the children could enjoy.

So if you or your church have wanted to bless our ministry for Christmas but simply don't know how to get it all together, maybe this is a solution for you. I will say, though, that the churches that have brought shopping money and have taken the children shopping have experienced a tremendous amount of joy as they helped the children pick out their gifts. The glee on those little faces is priceless!

If that's something you would like to do, just contact me and we can discuss it.

Again, we pray you and your family are blessed this Christmas season and that the New Year is filled with God's peace, joy, and abundance!

"Pure and unblemished religion [as it is expressed in outward acts] in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit *and* look after the fatherless and the widows in their distress, and to keep oneself uncontaminated by the [secular] world." James 1:27 (Amplified version)

The Greek word for "religion" in this verse is "Thrēskeia". Although it is translated as religion, it is also translated as "a ceremonial obervance" or "worship. In my opnion, that brings a much deeper connotation to the word, religion in this verse. The act of providing for orphans and widows is actually considered by the Lord as worship…and realize it is not just worship, but **"pure" worship**!

God does not take caring for orphans and widows lightly…it is so serious to Him that He regards your acts of financial support and caring as pure and unblemished worship. Those acts of worship transcend doctrinal issues, church or denomination affilation or any other type of man-made "religious" endeavors…its just pure and perfect worship.

I want to encouage you, that as you prayerfully consider joining with us as a financial partner, keep in mind that this is not a "side" issue with the Lord, but He recieves your gifts as worship!

Life In The Home











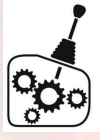

Urgent Needs



We are faced with several urgent needs. When we moved in two years ago, the oven was obviously on it's last legs, but since the stovetop woked we hung on because the expense of a new commercial oven is quite expensive. Now we are forced to replace it. It has almost stopped functioning.
Approximate cost: $3500



In addition, to our kitchen equipment needs, the large microwave oven no longer functions.
Approximate cost $200



The third urgent need is the transmission repair on one of our vans. **Approximate cost: $2500**

In total we need to raise approximately $6200.

Miracle In Progress



When this little girl, Vania, came to us about two years ago, the only way that she could get around was to crawl. It was obvious that she is a very determined litle girl that was not going to hold her back. It made us heart-sore to see her trying to crawl fast enough to keep up with the other children, but she always seemed to have a smile on her face. When necessary, we would lift her to sit in a wheelchair, but many times, she insisted that she wanted to go on her own, so she crawled. She was not strong enough to wheel herself, so he needed help to get around in the chair. We prayed and are standing in faith for her complete healing and have been helping her to increase in faith as well. Many times when she is playing by herself, you can hear her singing worship songs to the Lord, and it is so touching because she is not doing it to impress us because she is off in the corner of the playroom and doesn't even realize we are listening to her. Within the past few months, a mircle of healing is becoming a reality.

She reached a point where she could lift herself into the wheelchair by herself. Then, in just a short time, she was able to start using a walker, which was a major breakthrough because her legs had so little strength there had been no way for twisted little legs to stand. But she was able to not only pull herself upright to use the walker but was also able to walk a bit. Her strength began to increase even more, and she could walk on her walker at a speed that would allow her to almost keep up with the other children when they were walking. Then, just a few days ago, a group of us were sitting on the porch, and someone said.." look at Vania!" I looked over and saw her walking up the ramp onto the porch by herself without her walker and using only the metal handrail for support. It was amazing! Soon, I expect to send an update showing Vani walking freely and being able to enjoy life so much more.

Our financial partners share in this miracle because it is through the ongoing financial gifts that we are able to care for children like Vania by paying for her much needed physical therapy but even more important, is helping provide a home where she can meet the Lord and receive all that He has in store for her.

So thank you, partners...you are true destiny changers!

To Our Partners...THANK YOU!

You are truly helping to change the eternal destinies of some precious children!

Dr. Ron & Anna Sherman

P.S.: **Here is The Lord's promise TO YOU when you help the orphans: *Deuteronomy 15:10 ...Give generously to them (orphans & widows) and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless YOU in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.***

Scan to donate

Give by.... *Credit* or *Debit* card, go to:

www.whitestonekids.org/donate

Give by... Phone

Text Give to (830) 217-2787

Give by.... *Check* or *Money Order*, please mail to:

White Stone Ministries
807 B veterans Blvd.
#151
Del Rio, TX 78840

USA cell phone: 830-488-3928 ***Email:*** drron@whitestonekids.org

Casa Esperanza Children's Home is operated by White Stone Ministries, Inc. which is 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

Daily Needs

- Kleenex Tissues
- Feminine Products
- Vitamins - Children & Teens
- Aluminum foil
- Ziplock bags - various sizes
- Dish washing liquid
- Antibacterial hand soap
- Canned MIXED vegetables
- Liquid detergent
- Powdered detergent
- Pinesol
- Clorox
- Shampoo
- Lice Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Lasagna noodles
- Bar Keepers Friend powder
- Paper towels
- Large trash bags
- Tall Kitchen trash bags
- Canned fruit
- Ragu spaghetti sauce
- Cereal
- Windex
- Dryer sheets
- Vinegar
- Toothpaste
- Hand lotion
- Hand sanitizer
- Toilet paper
- Animal crackers
- Canned corn