



June 14, 2023

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17

Sunday was a sweet day of celebration with a new sister in Christ! Following the worship service at Iglesia Jesus de Nazaret, eight people joined the church by making public professions of faith and four of them were baptized. We were so happy to be present for this special occasion when one of our sisters who lives at Casa Hogar was baptized! When I was here in March, she told one of our team members that she wanted to be part of a whole family. In the words of this team member, she is now part of God's family!

This week's newsletter is being sent a day after I had hoped to send it. I've designated Wednesdays as my newsletter days but yesterday didn't quite go as I had planned so I didn't get to finish it and send it out. I think God had better plans! Last night at dinner, a few of the kids here mentioned that today is Family Day for their school and that they do not like family day. "Family Day" for their school is kind of a combination of elementary field day and a church picnic. Families are invited to a local park with their kids and there is a morning of fun planned. There are relay games that parents played with their children, a devotion and worship, a picnic lunch, and a hike to a beautiful view of Acapulco. The Casa Hogar kids explained that this is a hard day for many of them because they don't have their families with them like their classmates do. I am so grateful for the willingness of the staff here. When we asked if we could go, they were quick to make a plan to bring us with them! Our intern team didn't quite blend in with the local families, but we played silly relay games with the kids, enjoyed a picnic lunch, took tons of pictures, walked to the overlook, and even fed some iguanas! When we got back to Casa Hogar at about noon, I was thinking about the morning and realized that I didn't see any sad children at Family Day today. I am praising God for having us here at Casa Hogar for Family Day!

Our weekday afternoons continue to include helping with homework and studying. Homework time is a bit chaotic with so many children of different ages, but it is truly one of my favorite things to do with the kids. Just like during the last few weeks of school at home, the teachers here are feeling the time crunch with the school year ending and the kids are working hard while anticipating summer break. I'm trying to convince a group of 11- and 12-year-olds that their work with fractions will be a whole lot easier if they learn their multiplication tables. I'm not sure they are convinced, but we are practicing!

If you want to join us in praise and prayer, I will include a few notes in each of my newsletters. To learn more about Casa Hogar, including ways to support the children here, please visit the Jars of Clay Ministries website. www.jarsofclayministries.org I would love to talk to you more about this special place that has my heart!

We are praising God:

- For new life in Christ! For the public profession of faith made by one of our sisters in Christ who has grown up at Casa Hogar and was baptized on Sunday.
- For the staff retreat this past weekend.
- For Cassie, our intern who will celebrate her birthday tomorrow in this special place!
- For God's provision at Casa Hogar.
- For the staff who cares for the children at Casa Hogar and is also now caring for us.
- For the good health of our intern team.
- For the safe return to Casa Hogar of the older kids who were part of a mission team in Honduras last week.
- For the children who live at Casa Hogar, who are quick to invite us into their lives.
- That this is a home for God's children. That they are learning about Jesus as they grow up in this family.

We are asking God:

- To provide a Christian psychologist for Casa Hogar. There is a major need for Christian counseling here.
- To provide a caregiver for the younger boys here. There is a lady they have talked to about this job and we are praying she will accept it!
- To prepare the hearts of team members who will visit Casa Hogar this summer.
- That He will continue to heal one of the staff members from surgery and the son of another staff member who was in an accident.
- That He will continue to keep us healthy and safe while here.
- To bless our study of His word and our time in prayer together.
- For effective communication in Acapulco. Some of the children are helping me with my Spanish!
- That God will use us to make Jesus known and that He will soften hearts and create opportunities for us to share His love with people in our community this summer.

Please do not forward this newsletter or share the information publicly.

In His Love,

Melissa

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me." Isaiah 6:8

