

April 2023

Foundation For HIS MINISTRY



Accomplishing His purpose

Allan Carlson
Baja Mission

We started a Bible club at the Baja Mission 5 weeks ago. The kids were told they could earn a Bible of their very own after meeting various reading and memorization goals based on their academic level.

On Monday, we presented the first 6 Bibles to those that completed their goals. This morning we gave out 3 more... since then, 2 more have achieved their goals and will be given their Bibles next week.

The kids have been very enthusiastic and are reciting verses at every opportunity. So far, collectively, the kids have read 567 chapters

of the Bible and have memorized 429 verses! We see that once the kids complete their goals, they ask for even more verses to memorize.

We've been motivated by Isaiah 55:10-11 which says:

"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

The Holy Spirit is accomplishing His purpose in our kids as they commit themselves to His word.



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You Gave - Now the Blessing Lives On

Estela Cristobal

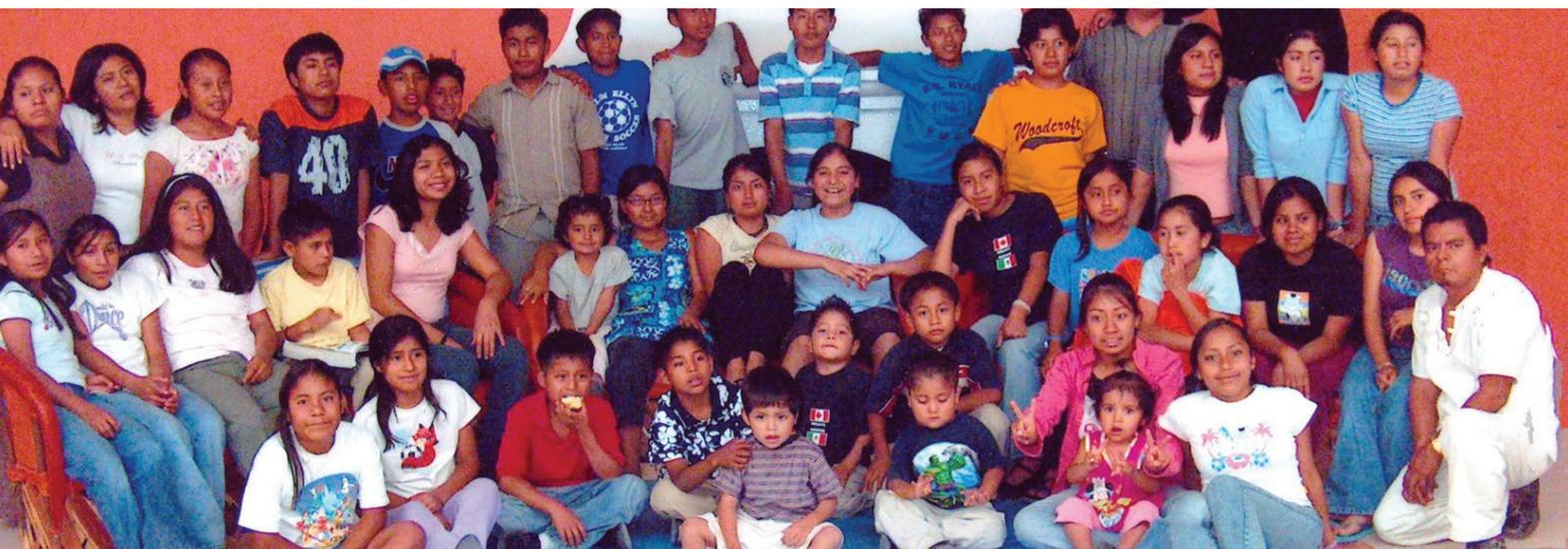


I was born in 1992 in the mountains of Oaxaca. I was the middle child of seven. I lived with my parents and siblings in our little mountain town when I was a young girl. Everything seemed "normal" as I was growing up until my dad got involved with the wrong people. The next thing we knew, someone was trying to kill him. The culture in many mountain towns in Oaxaca is often very revengeful and divided. So, for our protection, we fled to the city of Morelia (about 12 hours north of Oaxaca by bus). During this time, my dad showed up occasionally to give my mom money to take care of all of us. Many people were looking for him, and during that time, he was shot. Soon after that, he ended up in prison. I was seven years old at that time. Until now, I had only attended preschool since my mom could not afford to buy the uniforms and supplies we needed to go to public school.



The prison system in Mexico requires you to provide for your incarcerated family members, so for the next year, we spent every day at the prison. We would take him food and supplies, and we would stay in his cell on the weekend with him. We basically were living at the prison with him.

It was during this time that we heard about FFHM. My two older brothers were given the opportunity to live at the children's home in Etna, Oaxaca. About a year later, my two younger sisters and I were told that we had space at the children's home in Morelia.



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So, while FFHM constructed a new home in Tlacolula, Oaxaca, we stayed at the home in Morelia for the next six years.

When I arrived at the home in Morelia, I remember feeling like I finally could play. There was a safety and security that I had never experienced before. I was able to start attending school at age nine, and I soon learned to read and write. I also started attending church with children and staff from the home, where I first heard about Jesus. During VBS, I made a decision to follow Him.

When I was fourteen my sisters and I moved to the children's home in Oaxaca. Even though my dad got out of prison this same year, we continued living at the children's home. Life was still volatile for my family, and my parents fled to a new town because of threats that our family would be killed if we returned to our little mountain town.

During the following years, I was able to graduate from middle school and high school. Not only did I graduate from high school, which was not the norm for most young people in Oaxaca, but I was able to graduate at the top of my class. I was then given the opportunity to go on to college through FFHM. I decided to pursue my teaching degree to help other kids in a similar situation as I was.

After graduation, I decided to "give back" and serve as a teacher at the Oaxaca mission for the following year. I then moved to the Baja mission to teach in their elementary school for four years. In 2020, I moved to Tijuana to help start the new girls' home. After that was successfully launched, I returned to the school at the Baja mission to serve as a kindergarten teacher. I love that I get to teach kids that have never been to school. Many of my students aren't kindergarten age, they are much older, but just like my story, they have endured hardship, trauma, poverty, etc., which has hindered their education. I now help teach them some basics, such as numbers, letters, colors, etc., so they are ready to move up to the next grade level.

I'm so thankful for the ministry of FFHM. Without the opportunity to be rescued from violence and poverty, I would have ended up in a very similar situation to my family. My mom still doesn't know how to read or write, which could have easily been me. I believe education is one of the major ways to end the cycle of poverty in a child's life.

I hope my story reminds the kids in our homes that their dreams can become a reality. A verse that I often recite to my students is John 16:33 which says, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world, you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." This verse gives me hope for each one of the kids that we serve. I never dreamed that I would not only graduate from college but also learn English at the home in Oaxaca. In the last few years, I was also granted a visa that allows me to travel freely to the United States, which has always been a dream of mine. I'm so thankful for each donor and sponsor who has provided these opportunities. And I'm grateful to God for how He has worked in my life.

Foundation for His Ministry

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