

Mission News

Foundation for His Ministry - Transforming communities in Mexico starting with kids.



God is Our Anchor

Recently, two sisters, ages 3 and 5, were brought to our home. They were wide-eyed, scared and confused. The girls had been removed from their home due to domestic violence, some of which was visibly evident. We welcomed them, prepared a place for them, and let them know they were safe.

When asked if a situation like this is unique, my initial response would be no. It is why the home exists; to provide a safe haven for children who are no longer able to live in their current circumstances. Yet, as I think of these two sisters, my answer changes. For each child, the story is unique. For each arrival, the feelings differ.

In the case of these two girls, they have not asked to go home or see their parents. They simply asked if they were safe from harm. Yet other children want nothing more than to return to their homes even if circumstances are adverse. Others have siblings left at home and long to be reunited.

Some were pulled from schools they were attending and others from child labor with no education background. Most have endured hardship or trauma no child should know.

Our founder, Charla Pereau, had a vision as she stood in this place over 50 years ago; to become a place where children could laugh again. April 30 is when Mexico celebrates The Day of the Child. As such, I invite you to pray with us. We are praying for each child individually. I look around the home and I see faces of children who have grown up here. I see the faces of the two new sisters and several others who have been welcomed during the COVID-19 pandemic. I think about how change is the constant in all these young lives as house parents change every few years. Their housemates fluctuate as new arrivals are welcomed and others leave. I think about the staff and how missionaries turn over as well. When all is in constant motion, I am reminded God is the only anchor.

Sara Petersen
Baja Mission Director



FFHM USA P.O. Box 74000 San Clemente, CA 92673-0134 | (949) 492-2200 | info@ffhm.org | www.ffhm.org
PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 1046 Calle Recodo, Ste. E San Clemente, CA 92673-6261
FFHM CANADA Maranatha Evangelical Association P/O/ Box 1292
Calgary, AB T2P 2L2 1-877-632-7770 info@MEAWorldwide.org www.MEAWorldwide.org



Testimony of Alfonso Aranda

Several years ago, God led me to a place where I had played soccer as a child. The field was green, the kids were running back and forth, the stands were full of friends and family cheering the kids on. It was here that God said in no uncertain terms, "No more drugs Alfonso."

While I was there, I met a man who had, himself, come off of drugs. He gave me a phrase that has changed my life; he said I would know the truth and that the truth would set me free.

He invited me to church; it was interesting because everything the pastor said seemed directed at me. This is where I gave my heart to Jesus, and my life began to change.

I entered a rehab center in Ensenada where I stayed for about four months. When I left, I had no skills, no trade, I didn't know how to do an honest day's work or live life without using drugs.

I began to study electricity and I found a job in that field. Once I had a job and some money, I stopped going to church and relapsed into drugs. I had been through a lot before finding Jesus. There had been so many difficult circumstances and bad decisions. I knew that I did not want to go back to that life. I needed to get away from where I was living in Ensenada and find peace. When I arrived in Vicente Guerrero in early 2014, I was told about Rancho de Cristo.

God used the Rancho to change my life. This is where I finally understood what a commitment to God really meant. I learned that through Him, I would be moved forward away from a life of addiction and destruction. I learned in a real and tangible way that Christ must be first

in my life, and these past seven years, I finally feel the call that He has put on my life.

My life has changed tremendously. My focus has shifted from a "me first" attitude to a desire to serve others, specifically men like me who need direction after finding freedom from addiction. When I was offered the job at Rafa's house, I knew this was a call from the Lord. It's an opportunity to teach men how to live in society without the dependency on their specific addictions.

My life before Christ was filled with emptiness, addictions, pain, illness, overdoses, beatings, and jail time. What I have learned is, God always arrives on time. That is why I serve Him happily. Jesus accepted me as I was and changed my life, changed my heart, and I am excited to see what the future brings. Christ brought me out of the mud and placed my feet on the rock. As Psalm 40 says: today there is a new song in my mouth for the blessing of knowing Him.



God's Work in the Cuna

Throughout my life, I have heard many people talk about the great importance that the first years of life represent for a person; which are "the foundation on which everything else is built," "that one will never forget what one lives in the first years," in short, they will mark the rest of our lives. This sounds a bit daunting for children who, for various reasons, come to live in the cuna (nursery), not only in their first years of life, but sometimes within a few days of birth. Most of these little ones come here because their parents cannot take care of them due to addictions, drugs, alcohol, or extreme poverty. Before entering our home these little ones have suffered abandonment, hunger, violence, abuse and fear among many other things, and therefore they arrive with significant trauma.

I don't know much about the game of chess, but I know that as in life, the first moves are critical. However, it is not until the game is over that everything is determined. We cannot change their past but we can sow the seed and trust that God will make it grow.

Currently, 11 children are under our care in the cuna. Without a doubt God has and will continue to take care of their small but precious lives; for He brought them here to a home where they can know God, as well as grow up in a safe environment.

Although caregivers can be fragile people like clay pots, we contain a great treasure and we love children with a love that comes from God and not from ourselves. And I can say as Paul said to the Philippians, that the one who began such a good work in them would perfect it until the day when Jesus Christ returns. Of this I am sure, both for the caregivers and for the children.

Now when I think of our children in the cuna, I think of resilient children. Children who flourish amidst adversity, who are capable of starting anew after having suffered trauma; strong, courageous and valuable children. Children who are aware that God will hold them firm until the end and that they will be able to change the world, their world and that of their future generations. My prayer for our children is that if one day in their adult lives they wonder, where was God in my first years of life, they will have the security that He was always there, right beside them.

Michelle Hele-Ambriz
Baja Mission Staff





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San Clemente, CA 92673-0143

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