



iQue Pasa!

Christmas 2011

Ethan's Big Present

He gave his favorite gift

Seven-year-old Ethan from Puyallup, Washington is passionate about soccer. He plays for hours, and when he's not outside kicking the ball, you might find him practicing his skills on Xbox, or studying technique watching soccer games on TV.

Each year Ethan has a community service project for school, Cascade Christian School. Ethan's mom Linda visited El Sauzal Orphanage in 1999 before he was born. Their family had seen in a recent orphanage newsletter that there was a need for help with soccer costs. It was a natural fit for Ethan.

His father Robert says that Ethan did the majority of the work putting together a flier announcing his fundraiser. "It was really fun as a parent to watch him do this project," Robert says. Ethan practiced his presentation, working on eye contact and gaining confidence. Then with determination, Ethan took fliers and envelopes, and went to his neighbors and soccer friends, asking for their help. The family was surprised and happy at the results. Ethan even put in some of his own money. In the end,



Ethan loves soccer like many of the orphanage kids

this passionate young boy raised \$500, to buy cleats, uniforms, balls and pay league fees for the orphanage's teams.

Helping like Ethan

We are passionate about helping children. We also are determined to overcome the obstacles that come our way. This year has been full of blessings and challenges. As you know, the economy has been tough everywhere, with many charitable organizations struggling. The last few years we were not surprised as our donations decreased.

However this year giving has increased. You have blessed us with your generosity. At the same time, prices have gone up dramatically in Mexico. Even with the rise in donations, we are falling behind. Two recent expenses that have really tested our budget are car expenses and water. Auto repairs are tough on any family. And water expenses have skyrocketed. We are behind almost \$4,000 in these two areas.

A little gift can make a big difference

As 2011 comes to a close, would you consider helping us? Maybe you, like Ethan, can use your passion to help the children at the orphanage.



In This Issue

Ethan's big present	Page 1
Feature child: Jesus	Page 2
Not too late to get your calendar	Page 2
The heart of El Sauzal needs your prayers	Page 3
I don't care where God takes me	Page 4

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Volume 10, Edition 4

2

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Featured Child: Jesus



Jesus has lived with us for 15 years

An infectious personality

Seventeen-year-old Jesus is called “Chuy”, a common nickname for boys named Jesus in Latin America. Chuy has an endearing smile and an infectious personality. He loves to play volleyball and is a futbol/soccer goalie. His favorite subject in school is history. Chuy wants to be a veterinarian when he grows up.

Jesus was two years old when he came to El Sauzal. He was brought by his grandmother along with his baby sister and brother. Their grandmother had been taking care of them; their father had died and their mother was addicted to drugs.

Jesus is a wonderful part of the El Sauzal family and a blessing in everyone’s lives.

You can sponsor Jesus, or one of our other children. Go to elsauzal.org/Sponsor for more information.

Feliz Navidad

Not too late to get your calendar

Suggested donation: \$12 each

Two ways to order:

1. Order online thru Paypal. (See elsauzal.org/ordercalendar)
2. Order by check, cash or money order. Fill out the order form on the back of the insert and mail in with your donation.

Got questions? Email Danielle Bergman at dani.bergman@elsauzal.org.

Why buy a calendar?

Connect to our kids on a deeper level:

- **Remember them** on a daily basis by seeing their photos.
- **Get to know** specific children, and their joys and pains.
- **Celebrate** with them as you learn their birthdays and special holidays.
- **Learn their struggles** as each month we share a different need/prayer focus.



The heart of El Sauzal needs your prayers

The heart and soul of El Sauzal are the workers. Most of them live at the orphanage and work six days a week. It is a very draining job, both physically and emotionally. They always need your prayers, but right now we have two specific health concerns to share with you – for Mama Magdalena and nanny Maria.

and deliberately with a cane. In October she had a successful operation to remove the blood clot in her leg, and can now feel warmth in her foot which was cold before the operation. Please keep her in your prayers.



Magdalena & Ramon at their 50th wedding anniversary May '2010



Maria and amiga Patty in the kitchen

Mama Magdalena

Almost four decades ago when Ramon and Magdalena Espinoza began caring full-time for children, it was out of their home. Since then they have raised and cared for hundreds of children. Although Magdalena is retired from running El Sauzal, the children still call her Mama Magdalena, and she lives next door. Her grown orphanage kids come and visit all the time.

Magdalena's femoral artery has blockage in a few locations. Magdalena is doing alright but suffers with quite a bit of pain, and has little or no feeling in her leg and foot. She has had diabetes for most of her life. She is very pale and weak, mostly bed-ridden, and walking slowly

Nanny Maria

Maria has worked at the orphanage for about ten years. When she first arrived, she had nothing with her but her three children – no home, no money and no job. She became a nanny, and later a cook. Since then God has restored her to her husband. Her children are growing and she has her own home in the community. Maria is a hard-working, loving nanny who puts her whole heart into her work.

Maria has recently been diagnosed with breast cancer. Her doctors believe it is operable and her prognosis is good. We don't know her treatment yet, but it will be hard on her. Please join us in praying for healing for Maria.



I don't care where God takes me

In late October, Jerry visited for the first time with Westhill Church men's group from Auburn, Washington. After returning home, he shared this testimony with the congregation.

If you want to have your heart changed....

My church's elders Brian and Rick said, "If you want to have your heart changed, do this - come on the trip." They said the task at hand was huge, but God blessed it all. What He blessed me with overall was seeing the children. We sat at lunch, and the little girls would look up, and you could see that they were loved. The people working there love them; that is something that God touched my heart with. In James it talks about true religion; it's about caring for the widows and the orphans. These people love those orphans. When I saw that I thought it was one of the greatest things. These children have a huge family - thirty kids. I thought that was really amazing.

God has no borders

What was more amazing was how God changed my heart. I had borders. I always thought to myself, "No. Why are we going out of the country, all over the world to serve? We've got our own here." And God said very plainly to



Vivacious 5-year-old Arlet is playful and happy. You can tell that she is loved.

me, "What is dear to my heart is widows and orphans. I don't have borders." And I thought, "Okay, so I guess I'm doing the right thing by going out of this country into Mexico and serving a God that loves all the orphans, no matter where they are."

I thought I knew where God wanted me

I wanted to share this with you because I thought I was really pretty solid about my understanding of where I should serve until Bryan

and Rick asked me to go on the trip. I got to know all the guys that went and how their hearts were encouraged to serve God wherever He took us.

I want to go back. Right now.

I'm ready to go back. I'm ready to go back right now, today. Why? Because I want to serve God. I don't care where He takes me.

-Jerry Cannon



Jerry back home. He loves children all over the world.