

From Erika: How can God be more real than that?



Dear Amigo,



Director Erika grew up spending much of her free time at the orphanage

When I think about the 50th anniversary, the first thing that comes to my mind is “Wow!” Fifty years that the orphanage has been open, relying only on God. It’s like a brain scramble! It’s amazing how God has provided for the orphanage for so long so that we could take care of the kids. We are not doing anything that brings money to the orphanage. For me, it’s like, how can God be more real than that? The orphanage is here and it’s still open. Every need – God has always provided. Never once did He leave us alone to fend for ourselves.

I’ve grown up with my dad (Josue) and my grandpa (Ramon) telling me stories about the past fifty years. One story is from when Josue was six or seven years old. My grandpa was a missionary, and also taking care of 18-20 teenagers, before the orphanage was founded. He would go and preach at different churches. One day he was invited to preach in Ensenada. Grandpa Ramon told my grandma, “We aren’t going to church today because there is no gas in the truck”. My dad was listening, “Don’t you have faith that God is going to take us to church and back home?” It was not logical to my dad to not go to church. My grandfather took my grandmother aside and said, “I think we should go. We can’t hurt Josue’s faith.” My grandmother said, “What if we don’t get



Orphanage founder Ramon Espinoza holding his young son, Josue Espinoza

gas?” Ramon said, “We have to go.”



The Espinoza family car, with Mama Magdalena and her children. Josue is the boy standing next to her.

At that time, there wasn’t a measurement on the gas gauge to tell how empty it was, so they kept a hose to put into the tank to test the gas level. Ramon checked it and saw there was no gas. Josue said, “I will be praying all the

way there and back for God to keep the car running.” They drove the narrow, curvy roads from San Antonio to Ensenada, about thirty minutes away. They had no problems getting there. The church was in need; at the service the pastor gave them five pesos, not enough to fill up the truck. They drove to the local gas station and asked the attendant to put gas in the tank. He tried and told them, “I can’t because it’s full.” Ramon replied, “No, it’s totally empty.” Ramon got out of the car, and they tried again and gas poured out. The attendant told Ramon, “Your tank is full of gasoline.” Ramon was happy to explain the miracle. The family prayed and thanked God. Josue was super happy!

That’s how the orphanage has been sustained for so long. We see that there is no way we are going to make it with what we have. That is no different from now with the upgrades. That is our normal. God always provides. He is a very current, real God for me. He is the same God for my grandfather and my dad and for me.



Three generations of serving God and caring for children

Exodus 15:2

*The Lord is my strength and my defense; He has become my salvation.
He is my God, and I will praise Him, my father’s God, and I will exalt Him.*

If you want to be a part of helping out with the 50th celebration, please send whatever God puts in your heart. If you can come and celebrate with us, please do! Join us as we remember and enjoy God’s love and provision!

Con mucho gratitud,

Erika Espinoza

Director

El Sauzal Orphanage

Hogar Para Niños Necesitados Del Sauzal