

Mission Snapshot

Odilio and Stacie Alvarez share a need from a slum in the Philippines where they have been working: June is the beginning of the school year here and many of the families at Isla Bonita do what they can to live on about \$4 a day. The fathers try hard to provide by doing odd jobs, as available. The mothers add their share by lending themselves out as wash ladies or making rugs out of old clothes. Going to school is considered a luxury for some of them as their income is just enough to buy their daily rice. We humbly come before you all and ask you to help these children with whatever you can. Consider a one-time, \$30 donation which we will put to immediate use. We'll shop for their supplies and post pictures on our blog as they get ready to go Back to School! We will purchase these necessities: Pencils, Backpack, Pens, Notebooks, Paper, Shoes. Please pray for these children and their education. You can donate on FMC's website, or mail in your donation. Thank you and God bless and reward you all.



*"Go into the whole world and
proclaim the Gospel"*

Mark 16:15

Compelled by Jesus' missionary mandate, and filled with the Holy Spirit, Family Missions Company missionaries proclaim Jesus Christ and His Gospel to the poor. Always working in concert with the pastors of the Catholic Church, we strive to live the Gospel that we preach. We believe the Lord is calling many Catholic lay people, both singles and families, to serve in foreign missions, "the greatest and holiest duty of the Church" (Vatican II).

The need is urgent;

we must GO!



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Dear Benefactors,
Thank you for living the Gospel, and helping so many around the world to come to know and live the Good News, too! In Mexico, the poor are generously sharing their faith and the little that they have with others; in Ecuador, God is transforming hearts and lives through "chance" encounters; in the Philippines, children from the slum of Isla Bonita have an opportunity to go to school well supplied for the year - all thanks to you! May God abundantly bless and reward you.

THANK YOU

for your support of
Family Missions Company!



THANKS!

From the Field:



True Generosity – Jonathan Kiehl

A man once told me that the most generous people he had ever met were the poor. These people, who have next to nothing, are quick to give the small amount they have to another in need. Living in Mexico has revealed to me the astonishing, profoundly moving generosity in the poorest of the poor. It has also shown me that I have understood very little of authentic generosity in my own life. A hidden selfishness lurks deep in my heart. How often have I given when I have had little or even next to nothing? When have I



The House of One of the Donors

dropped in my widow's mite? More often I have merely given what I didn't need in the first place. I am convinced that one of the reasons it is so difficult for a rich man to enter the Kingdom (Luke 18:25) is that he rarely has an opportunity to give from his need. His giving is from his excess and thus never really touches down into his soul. Only with great difficulty can he enter those moments of impoverished existence where all the future seems wrapped in blackness and ignorance, where one's only hope is to plead to God for sustenance and safety, plead with the

mysterious Beloved who became utterly poor for our sake (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Recently I was speaking at one of our Bible study groups. I told them that they needed to share their testimonies with others here in General Cepeda. They were surprised. One woman said she didn't have a testimony. The Holy Spirit gave me this verse to tell her. *"If anyone believes in the Son of God he already has the testimony of God."* (1 John 5: 10) I said that if you believe in our Lord Jesus Christ you have a testimony. God has called all of us to be missionaries and to testify about the good things He has done. Our testimony is really His testimony (Luke 12:12). We invited them to come to the ranchos with us. They agreed. So on Thursday, we picked up four people in one of the neighborhoods in our town. The homes in this neighborhood are usually one room, with dirt walls, and roofs that leak and often cave in. The people are so poor. And yet in this poverty the light of Jesus shines bright and warm. Great was my surprise when the people had a large bag of clothes and seven old purses to bring to the rancho. They said they wanted to share what God had given them with the "poor." I was deeply moved. I wouldn't have even thought of asking these people to give anything. They gave what they could and, what is so much more, they gave what they couldn't. Not only did these poor women give some of the only clothes they had, but asked to stop at the store. I stopped and they bought 2.5 dollars' worth of candy (a fortune for them) to share with the children of the village. They asked me "Isn't this what Jesus would do?" I was stunned. Here was the Kingdom of God in all its splendor! *"Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."* (Mark



Miracle Report

Ryan Lawless shares a conversion miracle from Quito, Ecuador: I have been praying with Rebecca, 2-3 times per week. She was struggling to walk the straight path with God, partying too much, and being with friends who do not encourage her to grow closer to God. The first day I met her we were talking about God. I thought she had everything together. Before I left, I asked her if I could pray for her. She said, "Of course." I said, "I don't mean pray for you later, but right now." Surprised, she said, "Of course!" I asked her what she needed me to pray for. She started crying. She had been crying every night, every day, begging God for help to make her path straight. She was feeling depressed, and hadn't been going to church. She told me that she has been so confused in her faith. She wanted God to send her someone to pray with her and to help her. God used me to answer her prayers. Now, she awakes in the morning at 5am and prays, giving thanks to God. She is so joyful and so thankful for the love of God. She doesn't go out partying. I gave her a Bible; she was ecstatic! Now, her faith and belief in the power of prayer is contagious. Praise God!

Mission Message

"The Kingdom of God is a free gift... These two are the signs of an apostle who lives this gratuity: poverty and the ability to praise the Lord."

- Pope Francis