

# Shelter the Homeless International Projects

April 2008

## Fence Construction Begins

SHIP took a giant step forward in El Salvador, with recent Board approval to build a fence surrounding the orphanage site. Robert Horton, SHIP construction chairman, made a whirlwind two-day trip to San Salvador,



El Salvador, to meet with the orphanage director to finalize the plans and the location of the fence.

A fence in San Salvador is quite different from the ones seen around Texas. It's a serious, 9-foot tall concrete wall. Underbrush and growth must be removed and then concrete posts set. Stacked concrete panels will follow, and soon a wall that provides protection for the children and the property will grow in the dense, rich, tropical mountainside that will be the new home to eventually more than 60 children.

It's the rainy season now. The trees are full of fruit. A good rattle of the upper branches with a very long bamboo stick causes a tree to "rain" mangoes. Other trees are full of bunches of bananas, short, yellow-meated, and sweeter than most anything found in a supermarket.

Sweet, too, is the thought of children running down the mountain, enjoying fresh produce and fresh air. That time is near, and the fence is the first part of that vision.

## Local Volunteer Raises Funds for Taxes

Building a fence in El Salvador also means that the government gets involved. Taxes must be paid on the new fence. And, while most of the work we do in El Salvador is nontaxable, fence construction is taxable.

When Yvonne Baker heard that, she took action. Yvonne is an expert baker, so she took orders for her delicious breads. She then baked and delivered them

to some really happy, hungry people in her Sunday School class at Central Baptist Church, Bryan. Her fund-raising efforts brought in more than \$400, which should just about cover the taxes on the fence.

God uses all of us and the talents He gave us in so many ways to ensure that

the work goes on. Thanks, Yvonne, for letting God use your talents to bless the children of El Salvador!



SHIP is incorporated in the State of Texas as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions to SHIP are deductible for federal income tax purposes.

## Acuña, Mexico–Spring Break '08

Sixteen SHIP volunteers made a spring break trip to Acuña, Mexico in March. Over a three-day period, these volunteers, along with help from Central



Baptist Church youth, were able to place metal posts in a concrete foundation and pour 65–70 percent of the concrete footings for the orphanage's perimeter fence. Once completed, this fence will provide protection for the growing number of children who will live at the orphanage.

Currently, 10 children, including two infants, live at the orphanage. The new directors, Mike and Monica Troxel, are focused on

the welfare of the children—their security, health, and future. They, along with Pastor Henry Zaragoza of Navasota, are interviewing other missionaries, who will provide supervision for the children. Mike and Monica are anticipating their numbers to increase, but they are accepting children only as they can appropriately supervise and care for them. Their desire is to provide a firm foundation of hope for the children God places with them.

## Amazing Acuña

The spring break trip to Acuña this year was absolutely AMAZING! Because it was my first time in Mexico, I had pretty high expectations. It was hard to believe, but the trip blew me away! Seeing the kids at the orphanage play together, and being able to join them was probably my favorite part. Even though I didn't understand a majority of what they were talking about in Spanish, watching them communicate was fun.

Of course, I loved holding the two sweet babies. Visiting with Monie (the orphanage director) about all her work was a great learning experience—her “family” of twelve is really just that! She treats them all as her children.

Another big eye-opener was seeing the living conditions of the people in the community. We picked up and burned LOTS of rubbish in a nearby lot, which was a huge accomplishment. It's hard to believe that so many people make homes in the midst of the

trash. It made me want to go back and clean, clean, clean!

Besides the orphanage area, I was able to visit a lot of very interesting places. On the first day, we walked the orphanage children to school. I had to laugh when the kids came spilling out of class buildings shouting at the “gringas.”

Another place we visited was a Bible School/Eye Clinic. The man who runs that ministry lives in the U.S. a majority of the time and travels back and forth to keep up the organization in Mexico.

Lastly, the restaurant we went to on the last day was amazing!! The entire place was about as big as my living room,

and our group of 20 filled it up. But the food was incredible. The warm, homemade quesadillas were my personal favorite. If only we had such fantastic food here!

Going to Mexico was an incredible experience. If the opportunity comes up to go again, I will totally be going.  
— Aubrey Cole



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## New Wheels

The orphanage director has been picking us up at the airport for years in the same old battered Dodge van. Riding around the



*The New Van*

crowded, busy streets of San Salvador has always been an adventure, of sorts. It can be a little unnerving, however, when the van dies in the middle of the street. Four times. At night. And this is their only transportation. Thirty children, depending on one van. When the word went out that a new van was needed, a friend of SHIP stepped forward with a contribution to make it happen.

(Drum roll, please!) We are pleased to announce that soon, this great 15-passenger 2003 Chevrolet Express Van will be headed south, along with a 2001 Ford Explorer. On our last visit to the orphanage, we took pictures of the vehicles to show directors Johnny and Elena and the children. They are looking forward to their new wheels and send their thanks.

## We Are Family

It's Sunday afternoon in Soyapango, a heavily populated and poor area of San Salvador. We women, some wearing mantillas, sit on the left side of the open air church, while the men sit on the right. Hot and sweaty, we all stand and sing to God, as a painted image of Che Guevara, the icon of the national communist party, looks on from a neighboring wall across the church yard. Though the songs are in Spanish, and though I know little more Spanish than to say "Please" and "Thank you," it is obvious that the Spirit of God is in this small but lovely church, that these people who I do not even really know, are my brothers and sisters in Christ, that we are all there because we are those who have been called by Him.

I've never been too good at keeping my attention during church. My mind wanders constantly. This Sunday is no different. I'm distracted by the singing I hear during the minister's sermon. The children's Sunday School meets right

near the church building, and I can hear the sound of those precious little voices carrying into the church. They're singing some of the same songs we were singing just a short while ago. These, my little brothers and sisters in Christ, are singing songs to our heavenly Father.

Some of the children, the children from the orphanage, have never known their earthly fathers, and yet they carry in their hearts such a love for their heavenly Father who is Father to us all. These children have also been blessed with an earthly father, Johnny, who loves them as much as any father could love his children. Maybe Johnny is why these children know that they can trust their heavenly Father, even though the circumstances of their young lives have been so difficult.



I think of how we are all related, all of us who are in that church that day, all of those who bow their heads to pray in Jesus' name. I think also of what being a family means. That it means caring for one another. After all, we must watch after one another, must care for the orphans and the widows, must lend help to those who need it. As Mother Teresa once said, "Each one of them is Jesus in disguise."

– Sara Horton

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## Shelter the Homeless International Projects

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### News from SHIP's Board

#### **SHIP Board Members**

Maria Martinez, President  
John Hamilton, Vice President  
Jack Adams, Board Member

#### **Executive Director**

Sonja Kimberlin

#### **Volunteers**

Marjorie Morris, Treasurer  
Robert Horton, Construction Chair  
Ann Horton, Fund-raising Chair

#### **Mission:**

SHIP helps the homeless in the United States and other countries by providing housing, food, and humanitarian aid for orphans and indigent elderly individuals. SHIP also provides decent and affordable housing and care and services for low income and handicapped individuals and families in the State of Texas.

SHIP welcomes our newest Board Member, Jack Adams. Jack is a long-time SHIP volunteer, having been involved with several SHIP projects. He brings a wealth of experience to the Board.

Those who become acquainted with Jack soon learn of his desire to serve the Lord with his "can do" attitude. Jack is an individual who walks the walk and sincerely loves children. This has been demonstrated through his continued work with SHIP during the hurricane disaster relief work in 2005, at the orphanage in Acuña, Mexico, and with the 2007 Christmas Project when SHIP purchased gifts for 23 local foster

children. Jack and his wife Angie, foster parents themselves, are members of Parkway Baptist Church, College Station, where Jack serves as a deacon, children's Sunday School teacher, pre-school leadership team member, and summer camp counselor.



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