

1-30-08

LITTLE HANDS

"I want to help," said six year old Nasya Myers as I prepared the Communion elements. So together we filled the tiny cups and arranged them on a tray to be used at our COAPA church plant. Will this little girl, whose hands are so eager to help, grow up to be a missionary like her parents?

"STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM," the beckoning signs read as we traveled home from a mission retreat with another missionary family. We pulled over at a roadside stand and ordered the treat. A little girl was busy helping her mother in any way she could as the dessert was prepared for us. In most family businesses here in Mexico, the children begin taking on responsibility and learning the trade as soon as they are able to handle the small tasks with their little hands.

Little hands reached out for the gifts brought by a mission service organization. These children live on the edge of the city dumps. Their life revolves around their small community. Our mission personnel was invited to go along as translators. Medical, dental, and vision clinics had been offered, as well as a beauty salon for these residents. Now it was the last day for the mission organization to be there, and they gave a Christmas party for the children.

While we were in Campeche over the Christmas holidays to teach leadership classes, we were invited to attend a kindergarten school program. Little hands carried the symbols of Christmas as the youngsters joyfully sang about the birth of Jesus.

Little hands presented various items to the bride and groom at the altar. Each item represents a commitment the couple makes to each other as they repeat their wedding vows. Gary officiated at the wedding of the young people that we have known since their early teens. What a joy it was to see them beginning a new family unit, centered around Christ.

The day after Christmas, a new grandson was born into our family. Julian Maddox Allen joined big brother Adrian and big sister Jade, in the wee hours of December 26. Our son and daughter-in-law, Eric and Summer are the parents of this new addition. We are eager to touch his little hands when we take our summer vacation in Michigan.

Hands for the Harvest (Matthew 9: 37-38) is the mission theme for 2008. Little hands, big hands, hands around the world, are all working towards this goal.

We personally thank you for the way you have supported us with prayers, notes of encouragement, and financial giving over the past year. We want to remain partners with you as we join hands to enter a new year.

Your partners in the harvest,

Gary and Jann Allen
Mexico City