

Merry Christmas



Serving Latin America

Dear Friends,

Dec. 7, 2009

As Christmas approaches, we find ourselves making room. We are making room not only for our long-awaited visit from Curtis and Kaye Absher (otherwise known as Grandpa and Grandma to the youngest members of this family); we are making room not only for all of the end-of-the-school-year activities among our other activities; we are making room not only for new churches in Northern Chile that hope to join our denomination under Ricardo's supervision; we are making room not only for what we hope to be exponential growth at *Comunidad Cristiana Casa Grande* in the coming months; BUT we are making room for Christ in Christmas!

In fact, making room will be the theme for our upcoming nightly Christmas devotions at Casa Grande and Juliana has already begun to help others make room. Yesterday she reported that after her teachers told the class something about Santa Clause she said, "but that isn't what Christmas is about. Christmas is about baby Jesus. He is the gift."

As you read through this newsletter please pray for us and for yourself, that we will truly make room for Jesus in our lives!

Las Novenas de la Navidad

(The Nine Nights of Christmas - Dec. 16-24)

It is Catholic tradition to hold services for the the nine nights leading up to Christmas. Since that is what the culture is used to, last year we adapted this tradition and hosted "Las Novenas" in our home. Two of the families that attended last year followed us to *Comunidad Cristiana Casa Grande* when we began planting the church in January of this year.



This year, we are going to do "Las Novenas" in the yard at *Casa Grande* and hope to use the event to reach the neighborhood for Christ. The overall theme for this year is "Making Room" or "Haciendo Espacio." Each night, after singing Christmas Carols (some nights we even have local choirs who will perform a short concert) we will have a devotion/drama/video that focuses on how one character in the Christmas story made room for Christ. In other words, we will focus on Mary one night, Joseph another, the shepherds, the wise men, etc. until on December 24 when we focus on Jesus, himself, and celebrate his birth! After the last Novena, on December 24, we will hold a church wide dinner.

We hope that as people invite their friends, and neighbors see what is going on, people will open their hearts to Christ this Christmas season.

Roof Raising Started

On November 28, Nicholasville United Methodist Church hosted the first Roof Raising Party. One of our friends, Jose Buenrostro, donated authentic Mexican food for the dinner that raised \$927 to help replace the roof at Casa Grande. Thank you! Thank you! Thanks to everyone who cooked, served, worked and attended!



Another dinner is being planned at Wilmore Free Methodist Church in March. If you and your church would like to hold a roof raising party, let us know as the total bill to replace the roof will be more than \$12,000.



The truth is, that just to get this e-newsletter out, we've had to make room on our calendar. Therefore it is shorter than usual.

With few words or many, we wish each and everyone of you a very blessed Christmas season!

May you make room for Him,

Ricardo and Beth Gomez
Free Methodist World Missions

Decorating the Tree

December Calendar

- 10: Juliana turns 6 & Grandparents arrive.
- 13: Presidential elections in Chile.
- 15: End of year program at the kid's school.
- 19: Alpha in English Christmas dinner.
- 16-24: Las Novenas
- 24: Christmas Eve Dinner at Casa Grande Church.
- 25: Jesus' Birthday. Merry Christmas to all.
Kristin returns to USA.
- 26: Alpha in English and church service.
- 29: Grandparents return to USA.

Special prayer request: We ask that you lift up Juliana's collar-bone in your prayers. She re-broke it on November 28. Please pray that it will heal properly.