

From our Home to Yours....
We wish you a very BLESSED
CHRISTMAS SEASON

December 2008



NEGLECTED



ABUSED



ABANDONED

**WHAT
WE DO**



**THROWN
AWAY**



ORPHANED

**WHY WE
DO IT**

Just as Jesus Christ left glory to be born in a manger, it is His LOVE that motivates us to give ourselves for the sake of those who cannot help themselves. Loving, nurturing, teaching, giving them hope for the future . . .

These are hard times for all of us. Like you, we have lost a considerable amount of our income. Many of you, who have long been generous, compassionate supporters are struggling and find it hard to support us at this time. So many lives have been transformed by your loving care. But the needs continue, hunger remains, and lives have no hope without us. We cannot forsake God's command to care for His abused, abandoned, broken children. It is not about our needs, but about the needs of those who are helped through Songs of Joy. You can make a difference in the life of a child by contributing the cost of a Starbucks coffee, a trip to McDonalds, or a night at the movies — toss your change in a jar labeled "I'm making a difference!"

I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink...I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me.... Matthew 25:35-36

NOTE

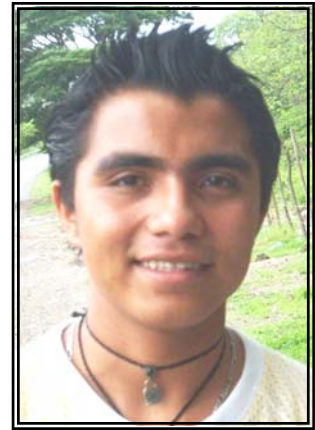
NEW SOJ OFFICE: Songs of Joy, P.O. Box 511, Trappe, MD 21673

If you sponsor a child, simply note his/her name on the memo line.

Secretary: Marie Stevanus. If you would like to contact Marie, call her at 443-786-4552.

“Chuse” (Hector Ramirez) has been with us since 2001. He is 18 now and a very important part of our ministry. He has one more year of study before he will enter the University, where he plans to study medicine.

For the past two years he has studied on the weekend so he would be available to work alongside Robert, helping him in all aspects of the Home. He is a gifted, responsible young man who has been Robert’s “right arm” for some time now. He has been in discipleship training in our local church and is a real spiritual leader with the boys. We are very proud of him and rejoice in the fruit of God that we see in his life.



Sarai Portillo is 16 years old and has just graduated from 6th grade. Her mom brought Sarai and her younger sister to us 6 years ago because she had no money to send them to school and she knew that if their lives were ever going to be different from hers, they needed an education. Sarai has always been a “model” child and been such a blessing to have in our Home. She accepted Christ shortly after her arrival and she has consistently grown into a godly young woman. Next year she is planning to attend Open Door Ministries’ 8-month Missionary Training Institute in Guatemala City. She is not sure where it will be, but Sarai knows that God is calling her to serve Him in full time ministry.

We are eager to have YOU VISIT Songs of Joy! Come alone, with a few friends or a large group. Come for a few days, a few weeks, or for an extended time. You might consider doing an internship from your college studies. We need help with our construction project and with various jobs around the Home: cooking, painting, sewing, maintenance....office and organizational skills are always needed. Now is the time to plan!

We want to *thank you* for your support throughout this year, for your prayers for the Home and school, and for those of you who volunteered with us. Without your faithfulness we would not be able to continue in this ministry.

We ask ALL of you to PLEASE return the enclosed envelope with your complete updated information! That will confirm your continued interest in SOJ. I recently had 300+ emails returned to me rejected, so please also notify us any time yours changes. Thanks for making that effort!!

Please indicate on the envelope if you have a special interest in: (1) medical clinics, (2) international evangelistic outreaches, or (3) rural pastors’ training.

Web Site: www.songsofjoyhome.org

Email: info@songsofjoyhome.org

Phone: [country code] 502 + 7944-0110

ALL correspondence and gifts need to be sent to our Songs of Joy address above. These funds are used for the \$15,000/month operating expenses of our children’s Home and school. All letters and 100% of your support will be delivered to us at SOJ in Guatemala.

100% of the cost of newsletter production is being paid for by the Board of Directors.

In the interest of good stewardship please let us know if you no longer want to receive these newsletters or be on our mailing list.