

Prayer Requests:

More Prayer Partners
Physical health
Protection for us, our
family, children and staff,
all of our properties
Upcoming Sabbatical
Financial Provisions
El Salvador Conference

December 2007

OUR PRAYER FOR
YOU
IS FOR A BLESSED
NEW YEAR in 2008!!

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El Salvador Jan. 3-13

Dear friends and family,

Important: Please use for me one of two addresses: info@songsofjoyhome.org or sojcarla@gmail.com. My hotmail account works, but I'd prefer to use the others. Delete from your records sojquate@itelqua.com! Thank you.

We arrived home on December 14th, after a l...o...n...g drive! We drove over 21,000+ miles on our trip! We are grateful to God for His care for us -- and to you for each prayer you lifted to Him on our behalf during our travels. We were especially blessed to have time with several of our "partners" who we really did not know well before. Thanks to each of you who offered us generous hospitality, your friendship and much encouragement.

All was well here at the Home and we thank Betty and her husband, Obed, for the good job they did in caring for the children in our absence. They had a baby boy in our absence. Little Kevin had a rough start but he's fat and sassy now, being enjoyed by his parents and his older brother, Brandon (10).



We found that a few of children had gone home to stay while we were away, and there is only one new child: Eight-year-old **Delvin** (26 April 1999) is a gentle boy who is happy to be here. The police in a nearby town found him wandering in the streets and he refused to go home, saying his mother beat him. We're awaiting his hearing at the end of the month to see what the judge says

I had hoped to get this Update out to you sooner, but I was overwhelmed with things to do when we arrived, and then I had to battle a case of pneumonia, which had me down a few days. I was able to be up on the 25th, however, to fix Christmas dinner for 35. We had some friends over, including 7 of the "kids" who had lived with us and came "home" for Mom's famous turkey dinner.

Many of the kids went home with family for the holidays so we had only 15 for Christmas. They will be returning tomorrow and our new school year will begin in a few days. It was a nice holiday time with them. They all enjoyed a trip to our brand new McDonalds in Chiquimula! Here are the kids with their gifts, including a new Bible for each one.



Our girls & boys here for Christmas.



We had a lady make some dresses and shirts while we were away so we were able to bless some of the poor families in our area with clothing, blankets, and stuffed animals



Our trip was blessed in many ways. We have a couple of new churches and a few individuals who have committed to monthly giving. Because we need yet more, we believe the Lord has directed us to return to the U.S. in late February to spend an extended time of 8-12 months on "sabbatical." We see the need to travel more and to cultivate many relationships that we were able to make during this trip. It takes TIME to get to know pastors and individuals and to build relationships that will encourage partnership with us and Songs of Joy. Please PRAY for the Lord's direction in all of this. We must have more

regular financial support for this ministry and we are hopeful that this is going to help to that end.

Many have said they plan to visit SOJ this year, but as of now I have only one date confirmed on the calendar. If you want to bring a team, be sure to write ASAP so that we can confirm your dates.

We praise God that we've being given a grant for a **new van** for the Home. We're waiting any day to receive the check and go select our much-needed vehicle!

We leave today for our EVANGELISTIC OUTREACH in EL SALVADOR through the 13th. PLEASE PRAY that God would give us all that we need in order to reach many souls for the Kingdom!

How we thank the Lord for those of you, who have prayed for us, loved and encouraged us, and given as you are able toward the support of Songs of Joy. We need and appreciate you more than we can say.

Our prayer is that this new year of 2008 will be filled with a greater experience of the Father's LOVE for you and your family. May He fill you to overflowing and give you the joy of sharing His love with those around you.

Ever proclaiming His FAITHFULNESS!

Carla

Contributions can be sent to:

Open Door Ministries, Inc.

P.O. Box 7408

Oregon, OH 43616

Make check payable to "ODMI" and then simply note "SOJ" on the memo line.

If you prefer, you can also make a donation thru PayPal on our website:

www.songsofjoyhome.org