

Subject: Update from Chelsea and Edgardo

Date: Monday, May 24, 2010 2:09 PM

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To: <undisclosed-recipients;>

Well, like I said last month, it seems like each time I go to write, so much has happened, and this time is no exception.

Edgardo took an impromptu trip to Mexico City in the middle of April due to a request from Canadian Immigration. I had a teacher, Lisa Clarke, who is now doing missions in Mexico City, who became our saving grace. She found a place for him to stay, as well as handled the paperwork for him after he left for which we were very grateful.

The day that Edgardo flew back into Tijuana, I was able to bus from the orphanage and meet him there. My mom and some friends were staying in Palm Springs and invited us to join them, and being just 3 hours from Tijuana we wanted to go. We weren't sure if we should go because of the recent expense that the trip to Mexico City brought, but knew that aside from the drive, the trip wouldn't cost us much since we had a place to stay. As I was praying specifically about whether or not we should go to Palm Springs for the weekend I felt like I just needed to trust God and that we should go and spend the weekend with my mom. As soon as I finished praying I got a message from my sister Emma, who is a hair stylist at Headquarters in Sherwood Park. She wrote that she had told one of her clients that day about what Edgardo and I are doing in Mexico, and she had written Emma a cheque for us for \$100. I love it when God surprises us with things like that in His perfect timing. We ended up having a wonderful weekend with my mom and some wonderful new friends too. We were so thankful to have such a wonderful place to stay and to those who opened their homes up to us.

Edgardo and I also had the opportunity to run a half marathon, a first for both of us. It was a beautiful run, part of which was beside the ocean. We finished the race in 2 hours and 7 minutes, which was 3 minutes under our goal so we were happy. I have been running regularly, but Edgardo started training with me just 5 weeks before our marathon so I was thoroughly impressed with him.

We continue to be involved with the youth in the orphanage, since it's an age group we both love. At church, Edgardo speaks a couple of times a month, sometimes to over 75 youth crammed into a tiny room with only a bunch of chairs in it.

Edgardo loves spending time the older boys in the orphanage. Whether it's a game of soccer or chess; marbles with a younger kid or having a long discussion with some of the older boys, he's happy. He and a friend have led a small group since the beginning of January. Each week they get together and discuss some of the recent books they've been reading together, and they are trying to broaden the boys' minds as to what they want to do once they grow up. They are talking to them about their talents and gifting, and about how to use them well. One of the great opportunities that the kids in the orphanage get is the chance to attend school. Some of these boys had never gone to school before the age of 11. Because of this, some of them are very determined in their classes and want to go further. The kids in the orphanage can also attend university in Tijuana through a sponsorship program. (While Edgardo was in university he lived with many of the kids that had grown up in the orphanage and were attending university at the same time as him.) I think it's a beautiful thing that we are able to give these children, who would otherwise be disadvantaged, an education. We have seen kids that grow up in the orphanage take significant jobs in the Mexican government, become pastors, or come back and serve at the orphanage and help the child that they once were. What a cool way to start to change the world. Edgardo is trying to help these boys out in their beginning steps of where to go next, what to study, and how to utilize the opportunity they have in front of them. Quite a few of these boys are also musical or artistic, so Edgardo has been assisting them in getting a room of their own to use for this purpose.

I have been doing some different projects with the girls in the orphanage, with anywhere from 7-10 girls at a time. We have done different projects and crafts and prayed together at the end too. It's fun for the girls to be able to something different and helps me know all the girls in the orphanage better.

We spend the most time with Gloria, who turned 14 on recently. She had a small birthday party planned by her house parents on Saturday, but nothing planned for her actual birthday. Edgardo and I took her out for pizza, and then brought her back to our place for a cake I had made for her. We also let her invite a few friends for cake. It was so nice to be able to do something for her, and it would have broken my heart if she had to go the whole day without anyone celebrating her. She has good marks in all her classes except for Math. We have told her that if she does well in Math we will bring her for a weekend trip and to a movie theater (the closest one to us is a 3 hour drive), which is very rare for her. It's dry here right now so there have been quite a few fires lately. If the fire is during the day and Edgardo's with a patient, he doesn't go, but other than that he goes running when he hears the siren. Just a couple of weeks ago someone

from Edmonton drove down a fire truck donated by the City of Edmonton Fire Department. There are no fire hydrants, and this new truck gives us 3 times the amount of water than the last one did.

Lastly, Edgardo is taking another medical trip to the south of Mexico on June 5 for two weeks. We just got word that I am permitted to join this trip, which I am very excited about. I have always wanted to go to Oaxaca as it's a different area of Mexico, and there is another orphanage there that we will be staying at that I would like to see. I am going to be helping with the medical side of things by taking vitals and helping in the "pharmacy" area that we will set up in each community that we go to. It will be good for me to spend some time with Edgardo in a medical setting too.

We are so thankful for the opportunities that God gives us. We are constantly amazed and what God puts before us whether it be direct ministry or something for ourselves personally to regroup and energize ourselves again. Life really is good and we are so thankful.

Chelsea and Edgardo

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