

January 21, 2008

## Special Report - Christmas Shoebox Project December 2007



The lifeline Ministries Christmas shoebox and stuffed animal distribution was a wonderful success again this year, though as is always the case, we learned some things that we will do differently next time! By our final estimate, over 400 needy children were touched and blessed by the sacrifice and special effort of folks from New Mexico during this year's December distribution and ministry here in the Guaymas, Empalme and valley area of Sonora. THANK YOU ALL AGAIN SO MUCH for partnering with us to touch the lives of these precious children!!

For those who might be interested, there are [160 photos](http://www.lifeline-ministries.net) at [www.lifeline-ministries.net](http://www.lifeline-ministries.net) highlighting the December shoebox ministry. We also hope to have a power point of this year's ministry available to download from the website very soon!

Our friends, Bob and Kathy Shelton, brought the shoeboxes and other items down to Guaymas on December 19<sup>th</sup>. We are praising God that they got green lights through the border, which meant they were able to drive straight through without any hassles from customs inspectors! However, they were not able to fit all of the items in their vehicle, even with a car top carrier. So we have another 20 boxes and some extra items to pick up from the New Mexico office in April. Those boxes, along with the other 23 and a bag of stuffed animals that we have saved here in MX, will be distributed in April to one last orphanage on a special day for children in Mexico called "Dia de Los Niños". It will be a bit like Christmas in the spring for this group of children. We hope, however, that next fall more folks can travel down, to help us get ALL of the shoeboxes and stuffed animals to Guaymas *before* Christmas!





This year, the Shoebox Project was expanded to include distribution to an additional 130 kids or so in an *ejido* village in the valley, fondly known as El Cerrito. It was also broadened to include the help and participation of the youth we have been working with from the Miramar church here in Guaymas. They helped us at two locations on Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. A total of 13 kids from this youth group participated. This group, even the boys, just jumped right in and ministered in various ways to the

children without any encouragement! In fact, the boys were so great with the kids that we were left quite amazed!! All of these teenagers blew up balloons, played tag, loved on the children, prayed for them, led team games, passed out small leaflets we had made for the children about inviting Jesus into their hearts, helped give out the gifts, and two even preached on the Friday night! We were so proud of them!



**Here are some things that touched our hearts** (both joyful and sad), which we would like to share with you from our days of ministry to the children this year:

1. At the Catholic orphanage, two of the girls from the Miramar youth group disappeared some time before we were due to leave. When we were ready to go, and they still had not appeared, Dave went to look for them. He found them in the bedrooms of the sick children, visiting with and praying for them. These girls found a way to make sure that not a single child was overlooked!



impoverished village, about 45 minutes from Guaymas.

2. The distribution at the *ejido*, El Cerrito, was a very blessed time for all of us. The children were so sweet, and we were very glad to be able to partner with some other missionaries, Tito and Judy Villanueva, to touch the hearts of children in this



3. One of the girls in the Miramar youth group brought along a bag of stuffed toys from her own bedroom to give to the youngest children at the GdeG work camp. Even though no one here has a great deal, she was willing to share what she had with children less fortunate than herself. Wasn't that precious?



4. One lady in Los Lunas, New Mexico felt the Lord put it on her heart to make gift bags/boxes this year for some of the adults who work with the children. The nuns at the Catholic orphanage were left speechless that someone would think of them (one had tears in her eyes), and the couples at the other locations were similarly touched by this woman's thoughtfulness.

5. At one orphanage, a boy broke his arm while playing with our group and we found out later that he and his sister have some sort of fungus in their bones that they contracted while playing with a dead and decaying animal several years ago. This fungal disease causes their bones to be very brittle and keeps them in and out of the hospital. Please pray for these two children as the Lord leads and puts them on your hearts. Unfortunately, we don't have their names, but we know the Lord can heal them both!

6. The Miramar youth who went with us on the Friday, and helped to minister that day, were so STOKED by this experience that they excitedly asked when we could go again to minister to more children!! They discovered through all of this that IT IS TRULY MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE.



7. An 11 year old boy at the smaller orphanage opened his box and, ignoring all the candy and toys, grabbed the pack of ballpoint pens and yelled gleefully, "Pens!! I LOVE pens!!" To see a boy this old, so excited over school supplies, just really touched our hearts.
8. The pastor of the Miramar church had us make a power point presentation which highlighted the involvement of the youth. He then showed it to the church a few weeks ago. It revealed to the congregation that these young people have something precious deposited within them, and that they have much to give if only they are given a chance!!

For this next year (2008), we hope be able to make a power point presentation on preparing the shoeboxes, including guidelines for what to put inside, to supplement the flyers we have made available each year in NM. We hope it will help the individuals and churches involved to more easily and more completely put together Christmas shoeboxes to send. Please pray that we will find time to do this in the coming months!

For 2008, we are also seeking a couple in New Mexico who can help Bob and Kathy Shelton as assistant coordinators for this Lifeline project (which is limited to NM at this time). It is growing so steadily that it is difficult for the Sheltons to do the coordinating, receiving, etc. that is required through the year (but mostly in the fall). Please contact us directly by email or phone if you have an interest or questions. Thanks!

THANK YOU AGAIN TO EACH PERSON WHO HAD A PART in making shoeboxes, sending stuffed toys for the under 3's/ 5's, making special gifts for the adult workers, and sending balloons, soccer balls, and miscellaneous supplies for the needy children in the various areas! We look forward to being able to be a blessing to even more children next year!!

With Great Big Hugs,



*Dave and Dee*



And the children whose lives were touched ...



P.S. A GIANT THANKS to those who contacted us about helping with the roof work! Sufficient funds have now been received for this need ... and we were deeply touched by the response. ❤️

**Tax deductible contributions may be sent to: Lifeline Ministries**  
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