



The Truth Shall Make You Free

OUR SCHOOL'S GREATEST PROJECT

The Blecha Auditorium, the largest building project in the history of our school, was built this summer. The "Amigos de Anapra" were here for 10 days of scorching heat and the most intense work hours, in order to re-assemble the auditorium's structure, which has the capacity to hold approximately 300 people. They truly were days of extreme tiredness and extreme weather.

Shoes which were made especially to withstand heavy work lost their sole to the 127° of heat emanating from the roof.

Our first event in the auditorium was the "1st Summer Camp," which lasted a week and was a true blessing for our children. It included a soccer tournament, directed by Misael; a showing of the movie "Rio;" karate lessons, given every day of the week by Erick and Mariana, two local black belts; and an arts and crafts time each day, directed by Abigail, and teachers Sarai and Josefa.

Seeing our children running and enjoying the auditorium so much reminded me of



The group that erected the building.

wish to extend my gratitude to the "Amigos de Anapra" and the community of brothers and sisters that support their endeavors. Many people were involved in making this possible, and we are very grateful to all of them. But I especially want to thank the Bernards, the Hoffmans, and Lynn Blecha, servants of God, impelled

by love. My family and I admire and respect them for their love of God's work through our school.

the words Jesus spoke: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Andy, youth pastor in Manhattan KS, has written about the experiences that he and the group had that week. Since this newsletter has to go through translation and editing, even I have had to wait anxiously for this chronic. I invite you to read his writing on page 3.

We know that many brothers and sisters have been involved in this huge enterprise, and we do not want to forget any of them. I



The building was transported across the border in a huge truck!! Special thanks to Hector Villegas (brother in law of the Briones) whose truck was stuck at the border for 5 days while we figured things out with customs, a time he did not charge us for (even though he lost any potential business for that time frame). We are very grateful!

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It seems incredible to me that time should go by so quickly. Just a few months ago we were telling our teachers that rehearsals for the Christmas pageant needed to get done as soon as possible and before we even realized it, we were giving our students the final exams for the 2010/2011 school year.

Yes, this school year is gone, and with it eleven beautiful young men and women, restless from the knowledge that next year awaits with new teachers and new schools, far from their beloved “Colegio” (school). But such is life, and on the 24th of July at nine in the morning, their last school activity with us, their graduation ceremony, initi-

ated. It was an event very much in the style of our school –splendid, dynamic- consisting of music, a terrific dance interpretation of 1960’s rock, and of course the official graduation ceremony that recognized their satisfactory completion of six years of elementary school. Everyone in attendance heard the graduates’ names, each of whom walked to the front of the room to receive their diploma.

It was a special moment when the scholarships were announced. Lydia Patterson Institute promised a scholarship to our most achieving students and has fulfilled their promise to an extent, offering four of our children a 50%

scholarship. Sadly, our second place student was not able to enroll at LPI this year because the remaining 50% was simply too costly for her family. Jaime Herrera, this generation’s first place, has been able to see his dream of studying in El Paso, TX. His family, friends, and donations* from people with an interest in helping others will disburse the balance. Two other students, Elda and Gerson, will join Jaime at LPI this next school year (also with a 50% scholarship).

This generation’s Padrino (godparent) was the Church of Christ in Blandersburg, Ohio. We thank you, brothers and sisters, for your support and hope you will continue to do so in the years to follow.

Also attending our graduation ceremony were the brothers and sisters from FUMC in Manhattan KS and from University UMC in Topeka KS. We thank you for your presence during such an important time in the life our colegio and its students.



JOSE IS GETTING MARRIED IN CHICONTLA, PUEBLA

Next 24 of December teacher Josefa will be getting married in her hometown; this is why she has sadly left our staff on August 1st, when she left for Chicontla in order to make the necessary preparations for her wedding day. We do not know if she will be able to come back to us at the end of January of 2012, but the doors of our school are always open to her, so the decision is for her and her future husband to make. We ask you to pray for her, and we will be happy to inform you of the decision she makes.



MY TRIP TO ANAPRA

I had never been to the desert before. I've been to or lived in some very hot places, but they've always been tropical. The first thing I noticed stepping out of the airport in El Paso was the way hot, dry air tastes and feels different in your mouth and lungs. Over the course of the week I would learn that this dry heat was deceiving, dehydration and heat exhaustion were only a couple of extra projects away. Like when it has been exposed to other climates, my body adjusted quickly, but those first couple of days we had to be careful.

This June I had an opportunity to travel with a mission team from First UMC Manhattan to the Susanna Wesley School in Anapra, just outside of Juarez, Mexico. Team members came from FUMC Manhattan, the Faith Evangelical Free Church in Manhattan and University UMC in Topeka. The School has been First UMC's primary mission project for eleven years now. We have seen the campus transformed from a sand-lot with an outhouse and a tar-paper shack into a multi-story, multi-building facility with electricity and running water. A place that served seven children now has over 150 students enrolled in first through sixth grade.

This year, we went down with a very special opportunity. The school has lacked a building where all the students could gather as one group. They gather outside for events, prayer, and play, but this becomes very difficult when the average daily high temperature is in the triple

digits for days and weeks on end. Of particular note on this issue, while we were there we attended graduation. The kids who were born the year the school started, graduated! And they graduated in a Baptist Church up the road. I love my Baptist brothers and sisters in Christ, and the Church and their pastor were very gracious hosts, but I think we can do better than having the kids from a school with the name Wesley in it graduate in a Baptist Church!

Our group erected a roughly 80 ft by 40 ft steel structure that can be used as a multi-purpose auditorium/ gymnasium/cafeteria. Thanks to a great deal of prep-work by previous teams the construction site was almost completely ready for work

when we arrived. The building got stuck in customs coming across the border for a couple of days, but we finished the prep work remaining and were ready when it was released. After many days of hard work in the bright Mexican sun the Susanna Wesley campus has the facilities they need to live out and share the love of Jesus in their community.

Rev. Andy Hargrove



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ABOUT US

Susannah Wesley School, or "Colegio Susana Wesley" in Spanish, is a mission school envisioned, built, and supported through the service of Pastor Antonio Briones and his family and the support of faithful and loving partners in mission across the border.

The school supplies a Christian education to children from 1st through 6th grade. It is officially incorporated to the SEP (Office of Public Education), and is acknowledged as a private school following the standard national curriculum.

The children of Susana Wesley receive ESL classes, as well as art, music, and Bible lessons (learning a Bible verse every week). We hold a short morning service on Fridays. The school is set in Anapra, an impoverished neighborhood of Juarez, Mexico, and it runs on a limited budget, but its excellency in education and service have been noted in Mexico and abroad. In 2009, the children of Susana Wesley tested so highly on the nation-wide standardized testing that the school was awarded a city-wide 9th place (among hundreds of schools) in academic excellency and was placed in the **top 2%** of Chihuahua state's (a state larger than Texas) elementary schools. In 2010, Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso TX, awarded a full tuition scholarship to two of our children. We are very grateful to Dr. de Anda, President of LPI, for this award.

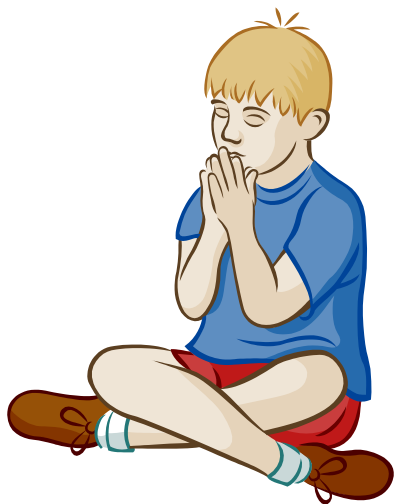
To watch a video about our school, our children, and the work we do, please visit our website.

PLEASE PRAY FOR US!

Unfortunately we must say that the city is experiencing terrible days, and not only because of the insecurity, which is quite evident; but now, because of what happened in Japan with an amount of at least 9 maquiladoras have closed their production lines, leaving at least 2000 unemployed people behind here in Juarez. Some of our parents were affected by this closure and have joined the huge list of people who have lost

their jobs. A good number of our students will be taken back to small towns in central Mexico and others are talking to us about their interest in staying in school, but letting us know that they wouldn't be able to contribute financially to the school anymore. We are ready to carry on, as to this day, by faith. We the Briones family continue to go without a salary, but the mercy of God is great and thanks to Him and to those who

have decided to support our ministry, with difficulty we make it through each month ... but we have always managed to pull through. Your prayers are more important than ever in these hard times, and we ask from the depths of our hearts: Please give to us the smallest allotment of your worship time or Sunday school classes, in your meetings and your family and personal devotions. A short 30-second prayer is a powerful gift. I am asking you in all honesty and frankness, because we greatly need it.



PRAY FOR US!