

## It's all about people at 'Our Father's World'

We've been in operation for a few months now, and the little gift shop in Longmont is beginning to catch on. We really enjoy making connections with everyone who comes by. We've also added several items from some local artisans.

### Events in December:

On Saturday, December 13, from 10 AM to 4 PM, **Shine On Mexico's** missionary couple, Timothy and Susie Alm, will be hosting an Open House at the store! Come by and visit with this wonderful couple and meet little Josiah, their bundle of joy, born in Mexico last May.

The following Saturday, December 20, from 10 AM to 4 PM, **Shine On Mexico will be having a Christmas Party!** We will be drawing the winner of the raffle for a quilt made by the women at RETO. You will still be able to get in on the drawing at the party! Everyone is invited. We're looking forward to having a great time celebrating the birth of our King!

## From the Field: The Alm's Report

As we've mentioned recently, unity is blossoming in this region. The pastoral alliance of Madera has been an inspiration to others; another alliance is being formed by some other pastors about an hour east of Madera.

Here are some notes from our recent meetings with both the pastors of Madera, and from some of the communities east and north of Madera: Pastor Jorge (pronounced "Horhay") shared about how much we (as different ministries) truly need each other (members of the same body). We NEED the "tools" God has given our fellow laborers. He has blessed different individuals with differing perspectives, insights, gifts, and experiences; these are to be shared as we learn to walk, grow, and work together. We can't be isolated in separate trenches in this battle!

### God is opening doors!

These days the local "authorities" are even turning and looking to the pastors! They are asking pastors to intercede and pray for them, also acknowledging the significant level of influence that the pastors have in the community. Unbelievers are seeking out pastors and coming to churches; acknowledging the power of God, and prayer.

### A Special Note To Our Readers.....

We think you will enjoy Kate Bertuglia's wonderful mission report on the reverse side of this newsletter. If you are touched and want to help with this valuable Work of God, you need go no further than *Our Father's World* store at 1035 Coffman Street in Longmont. We have a nice variety of quilts, pillows and other merchandise that will fill your Christmas shopping needs and help to take another girl off the streets of despair in Mexico. Call Colene at 303-709-0177 for store hours and/or appointments. The store is open every Saturday and at various other times.



*Additional December plans for visits by the Alm family include a baby dedication scheduled for Josiah at VineLife on Friday, Jan 9, during the 7PM prayer and worship meeting. On Dec 14th, Timothy and Susie have a short ministry presentation at VineLife during both the 9 and 11 AM services. They've been asked to share on some of the "hands-on work" that is done through the ministry, and some details on the people whose lives are changed because of it. Plans for also visiting The River church in Lyons are in the works.*



**Timothy Alm**

*Pastor Jorge Contreras (left) is one of the founding leaders of the Pastoral Alliance in Madera. Pictured here with one of his daughters at a regional pastor's gathering.*

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# Reto a la Juventud: The Answer for Many Souls

One day while driving home from Reto in Juarez, I saw a field of cotton, white and ready for harvest. What an important message for us! So many are still lost and there is so little time! I thought to myself, "Surely there will be harvesters any day now, to reap the benefits of what was sown here."

When I returned for sewing classes the next Monday, I had my camera poised to take a picture of this great illustration, but it was too late. The field was totally ravaged by a storm. The balls of cotton were on the ground, mixed with mud... Nothing was left except for some short, brown stalks. My heart sank, as I thought of the many who will be lost forever if we do not soon answer God's calling on our lives.

All of our programs (not just the sewing) are growing rapidly, with much fruit harvested. In particular, I want to share with you about two girls at Reto whose lives are changed forever because people gave to the Lord:

Claudia is a beautiful, 28-year-old woman, who came back to us several months ago. She had been here a few years ago, but left the program early, believing that she could now live free from the addictions that were destroying her. But this time she lost even more than before, including her precious son. She realized, that relying on her own strength would never be enough. Still, there was a stubborn streak that didn't want to let go of addiction. Instead of drugs, she began to obsess with exercise, then cleaning, then Bible reading.

Jesus finally broke through the walls of addiction, and Claudia found herself wanting more and more of the Lord. Now, she shares her victorious testimony with each new girl who enters Reto. Claudia will still have to go back and face the Texas justice system soon, taking full responsibility for the actions of her sinful past. None the less, and even with joy in her heart, she tells the new ones of the terrible things she has repented of, and how Jesus accepted her just the way she was and breathed new life into her.

An example of the girls Claudia has helped is Martha, who came to us just two weeks ago. Reto is her third try at rehab, but the first one based on Christian principles. Martha's mother had

taken her to several other therapy and psychiatric programs, all to no avail. This young girl of 21 years was born into a troubled home, terrorized at ages 2-5 years by a father who was sexually molesting her. He was eventually forced to leave, but Martha had already developed severe eating problems. By age 12 she was using alcohol and drugs, and by age 14 she tried to kill herself, the first of many attempts. By the time she came to Reto, all of her family and friends had given up hope for her.

"Nobody believes in me any more," she said. She wasn't keeping down what little she ate, and she was extremely thin. Claudia welcomed Martha with open arms, like a big sister, sharing her testimony and constantly encouraging her.

Last Sunday, Martha gave her heart to the Lord, Praise God!!! This week it is a joy to see her simply eating a meal, every meal. She and I spend a lot of time together, since she still needs one-on-one encouragement at meal time, which sometimes takes 2 or more hours.

She asks how I pray, what are my favorite Bible passages and why... etc. She is so thirsty for living water. Now she says, "Jesus believes in me, and no one else matters."

We now hope to raise funds to build a permanent sewing room for our "Proverbs 31" quilting class.

More importantly, we need a larger chapel. There has been standing room only at prayer meetings, and people have to listen from outside on Sundays. We paint chalk lines in the dirt for parking spaces, in an effort to make more room. You see, the girls who graduate move on to new lives, preaching the good news to family and whoever else will listen.

Many of these people now come to our own little services at Reto. So when you help us take just one life off of the streets of Juarez, Texas, Mexico City, or wherever they come from, you are reaching many, many souls for Jesus!

We have room now for another cutting table and another ironing board. Classes have doubled in size, and lengthened to 4-6 months, so quality is much improved. We have two quilts ready to raffle, and 20 pillows ready to sell. Four more quilts will be ready by February or March.



***Claudia found a new life in Christ through Reto and the quilting program.***



***Atenea displays and wears sewing class productions.***



***Gabby with an antique rose and cream creation that she is particularly fond of.***



***Angelica proudly displays one of the quilts headed for auction to raise money for the Reto rehab programs. Kate Bertuglia has launched a sales program through her church in Las Cruces that has raised \$400 of the \$520 needed to set up a new classroom at Reto. This means machines and supplies can be left up after classes. For nearly two years now Kate has had to setup and breakdown after each class. A laborious task indeed.***



***Far Right: Kate with some star pupils in the 'new' sewing room. A Big Need: New Machines. 'new'***