

# Love letters

February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

issue 7.2 February 2010



"When you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me." Matthew 25:40

## A NEW PLAYGROUND, LA ALJABA

Story and photos provided by Camp Luther A Team from Camp Luther in Three Lakes, Wisconsin traveled down to Colombia to spend time with the children at La Aljaba this past month. Each year Camp Luther sends a mission team to an orphanage in Lima, Peru with the primary goal of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the children who desperately need to know that Jesus loves and cares for them. This year they had the exciting opportunity to lead a men's group to Leticia, Colombia and complete a major construction project for the home.



The project was a new playground for the children. Because La Aljaba is in the middle of the jungle you can't just drive down the street to Lowe's or Home Depot. The team assumed they would have to travel to several stores in order to purchase all the supplies they needed. However they came across a "one-man" Home Depot who could accommodate all their needs. While a few guys were out buying the materials, others from the group stayed behind and built benches out of scrap lumber for the children to sit on.

Once the team was back with the supplies

they started to build the playground. But in order for the team to start building the playground they had to first lay the foundation. The foundation needed to have a strong base, made of materials that would not bend or break, and that could stand a great weight. The foundation is what holds everything up. The team started by digging holes, and then put in the support columns, followed by surrounding the columns with hard-packed clay and cement. During the process of laying the foundation one team member thought about how this was an illustration we can all learn from. He said, *"Many times we are arrogant enough to believe that we will be coming down to start the foundations of faith in the people we meet. Instead, we find a host of believers who have a strong faith in Jesus Christ. Instead of building foundations, we are encouraging upward growth, discipling and building relationships. This encouragement works both ways. While our foundations are firmly set in Jesus Christ, we still need the help of our Christian brothers and sisters in Christ to build our faith"*. I believe this is so true and we all can learn from this.



Work continued for the next few days and the playground was finally finished hours before the team left. The children were so excited and thankful for their new playground! We hope the children enjoy and praise God for this new wonderful gift!

## Upcoming Events/Teams:

### 2010 Golf Tournament

Mark your calendars for the Orphanos Golf Tournament Fundraiser! This is the third year for this event and we pray you will join us on the green April 27th. Watch for more news to come soon and if you would like to play in this year's tournament call the Orphanos office at 901.458.9500.

### Open Team to La Aljaba

Orphanos is sending a team of 6 to visit our partner home in Leticia, Colombia in March. This is a very short trip but will be focused on spending time with the children. Please pray for this team as they prepare and for relationships they will form with the children.

While Orphanos does send teams to these locations, the stories in this Love Letter are from teams outside of Orphanos. Since many of you have been to these homes through us, we feel it is important to share stories like these about events happening at the homes.

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## ROBIN'S NEST HAS A NEW PLAYGROUND

Written by the Z Family Team

We are thrilled to let you know we finished the playground! After six incredibly hard days of work digging, cutting, hammering, staining, roofing and painting, we managed to complete both the main playground and the toddler playground. We decided to name the big playground "Z FORTRESS." We had an amazing prayer of dedication and then formed a human tunnel to welcome the Robin's Nest children into their new fun zone.

Words cannot even come close to describing how beautifully the playground came out! The incredible artistic work on the seven plaques showing the pieces of the armor of God and the amazing job of painting the front of the "fortress" can only be appreciated by looking at the picture. The shingled-roof turrets were definitely also a work of art. The wall covered with about fifty small plaques painted by the Robin's Nest children and everyone on our team. It is absolutely magnificent and colorful.

We all worked so hard to make sure the project was completed in time for us to see the children play on it before we left the Nest for the last time on this trip. It was well worth all of our hard work, and we are certain the children felt it was well worth the long week of watching and waiting for their new playground to be complete.



The team has been awesome! I can't think of a better word to describe the teamwork, friendships formed, encouragement, crazy and fun times, inspiring devotions, insanely noisy bus rides, hugs and tears and prayers that made up this week.

Thanks to the Z Foundation of Lenoir City, TN.



## Prayer Requests

1. Please pray for Jennifer Ekedal who leaves for Cambodia Sunday February 14<sup>th</sup> to serve 3 months at Daughters of Cambodia. Pray that she adjusts to the culture, pray for her emotional strength to deal with the injustice she will see, pray for her ability to help market and promote the products she will help design so that the girls can have a viable income, pray for a Christian community there and pray that she will also find direction for the future/long term ministry.

2. Although we do not have a partner home in Haiti, we are still remembering the children in prayer. 40% of the population in Haiti is under 14 and countless children have been affected by the earthquake. Pray for the ministries already in place that they will focus on the children and help them overcome this disaster.

written and edited by Jennifer Ragland  
photos donated by friends of Orphanos

### About Orphanos

Orphanos Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) ministry based in Cordova, Tennessee.

### For more information

If you'd like more information on Orphanos, including how to get involved and/or financially support our ministry efforts, we welcome you to visit our web site at [orphanos.org](http://orphanos.org) or call our office at (901) 458-9500.

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