



# Christ for Children International

P.O.Box 260

Wheaton, IL 60187-0260

Phone: 630/580-5750 • Fax: 630/580-5757

November 2008

Volume 13 #3

Happy Thanks Giving from a Pilgrim People called to serve in Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico

In this season that calls us to reflect on those things in our lives for which we are grateful, we offer to you, our donors and friends, our thoughts in word and pictures. We hope that you gain a glimpse into our world and know that as our partners, these are your blessings, as well as ours.



## Pressing on to the Goal

Since its founding in 1997, Iglesia del Gran Pastor has worked to reach our neighbors with the Good News of the Gospel. After years of hard work, our little church is growing bigger and stronger. Each week, over one hundred are in attendance, five cells groups meet weekly and 45-50 are in one of the Bible classes or Navigator 2/7 studies.

The result is a congregation that is learning how to share their faith and stand on the Word of God because they are hiding it in their hearts. Our pastor, Doug Jones and his wife, Christy, spend many hours ministering to the flock.

## Torta [or Saturday Lunch]

Where's the fruit? It's on another table because our lunch counter is already piled high. As the economy in Mexico worsens, along with that in the United States, more and more kids and their families need help with the cost of feeding their growing children. We are so grateful that we have the opportunity to minister in such a tangible way the love of Jesus. He is one who says that when we feed the hungry, it is as if we have fed Him. In these past months more and still more kids are coming to lunch. As a result, we now reach 300+ kids with the love of Jesus; and our torta leader, Elizabeth Mahon, considers Saturday lunch one of the best parts of the week.



## Cell Group Explosion!

Our church loves its Grupos Celulares. As you can see from this picture, taken at a local park, lots of our friends are devoted to regular attendance, growing spiritually, supporting each other, and finding new ways to help the church reach those who do not yet know about Jesus. We are so grateful for the five groups that currently have around 75 adults in attendance each week. The number grows steadily and so does our need for more cell group pastors. Even so, we are so grateful that so many are so hungry for the Word of God.

Meredith Omland and Becca Thompson are in this group. Do you see them?



## Cooking Lessons



Newcomer to the team, Karen Hooge, says that she is “grateful for my Mexican friends who have welcomed me to Fresno in tangible ways—like making tamales with their families.” As anyone who has traveled much will acknowledge, you don’t really know a country until you know its people. CFCI is so thankful for all the open doors and hearts of our friends here. We are a very blessed Pilgrim People!

## Praying People



First Thessalonians 5:16-18 commands us to “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, [and] give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Without CFCI Brian would not have heard these life-giving verses. Who can doubt that he is sincere about praying? We rejoice that we can be here to guide souls such as his to know, love, and serve God and enjoy Him forever. Brian is wearing one of our verse tee shirts which means that he has hidden at least ten verses a year in his heart. We thank God and you that we can see such encouraging fruit in the lives of little ones.

## Campfire Discipleship

Who can resist the lure of campfires, good friends, marshmallows, and a chance to hang out with George?



George Childs surrounded by his small discipleship group of [l-r] Dani, Esteban, Juan, Poncho, & Pepe. Right: Esteban enjoys his marshmallow



Each CFCI missionary focuses special, intentional time on those in their groups who show the most spiritual hunger. These small groups then receive special training, prayer, and time from their leader as they learn what it means to be a disciple. The faces of this group clearly reflect that being a disciple can be a joy and a lot of fun. We are grateful for each little or big soul that opens to the call of the Lord and the chance to be a part of the pilgrimage of each one onward and upward toward our heavenly home.

## Meet the 2008-09 CFCI Team

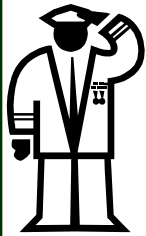
Front row, l-r: Meredith Omland, Elizabeth Mahon, Becca Thompson

Back row: Doug Jones, Christy Jones, Karen Hooge, George Childs

This group together with three paid national workers and many national volunteers minister to well over 600 people each week.



Life in Fresnillo is like life anywhere. There are joys and challenges, opportunities and hurdles, times of rejoicing and seasons of sadness. Yet the daily reminder of Who led them here and Who walks with them on a daily basis keeps the pilgrimage in perspective. This joyful group knows that there will be much to celebrate on Thanksgiving Day and your partnership remains one of the biggest blessings. Thank you and may God bless you as you give thanks this year.



### We Salute You!

CFCI believes it has the best donors in the world. We salute you for your faithfulness to us in prayer, financial support, and loving care. We thank God daily for bringing you into our lives.

We also thank Daniel Park for his time as Executive Director of CFCI and we welcome back Mary Dorsett as the Interim Director.

Please pray that we will be able to raise up more missionaries, especially men, for the coming year and that God will bring exactly the best person for each job that still needs filling.

### Children's Songs in Spanish Available Online

The best of the hundreds of children's memory verse songs sung by our very own CFCI missionaries are now available for you to enjoy and share.



Download them in MP3 format at:  
[www.ChristforChildren.com](http://www.ChristforChildren.com)

### Adios & Que Dios les bendiga [God Bless You]



The missionaries and national workers of the Thursday afternoon Bible Club wish you well, hope your holiday season is blessed, and remind you that this fine publication will be back in your mailbox in March. Until then, as the Lord leads, will you please hold us up in prayer? The spiritual warfare is sometimes fierce. Satan fights those who lead souls out of darkness into God's light. Like the Pilgrims of old, we covet the covering of prayer.

### Bless a Missionary & Know True Joy

A full mailbox brings smiles to the faces of your friends in Fresno.



Missionary Name  
APDO 470  
Fresnillo, Zacatecas 99000  
MEXICO

Not into snail mail?  
Go high tech and send your message to :  
[Teamcfc@gmail.com](mailto:Teamcfc@gmail.com)

[Be sure to put the name of the missionary in the subject line ]

To help support the team, please send financial gifts to:

CFCI  
P.O. Box 260  
Wheaton IL 60187-0260

Online at:  
[Christforchildren.com](http://Christforchildren.com)

