

But if anyone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need and refuses to help—how can God's love be in that person? Let us stop just saying we love each other; let us really show it by our actions. 1 John 3:17-1

March was full of visitors and special projects. A new class began in the Bible Institute, two playgrounds were completed, 2 groups visited Burgos, and children received special gifts from their sponsors.

Lamplighters A group representing Lamplighters Ministries came to Burgos to spend part of their spring break. Though they helped with Bible College materials, repairing instruments for our music team, and other tasks, their main objective was the playground in El Charco. The group, which also spent time in Reynosa at Big Heart Children's Home, helped build new equipment and install reconditioned equipment which had been removed from the Burgos plaza earlier this year. We have enjoyed getting to know Lamplighters over the past 2 years and are blessed by their friendship and ministry in several parts of the world. More info, photos, and links to Lamplighter are available on the blog page at burgosmissions.org.

Rotarians at Work The aforementioned playground project began as the idea of the Greater Paris Rotary Club of Paris, Texas. It has turned into blessing for two Burgos communities. Representatives of the Club came to Burgos to finish the project and get to know the region. The trip was a great success and included an inauguration hosted by children from the community and lunch with the Mayor.

The first workday was in El Charco and included painting and some construction. Several families prepared lunch for the group and were able to thank the Rotarians for their generosity. Besides wonderful families, there is not much in El Charco, except the new playground. The group spent the afternoon repainting the playground in the Burgos Plaza and enjoying the river.

Children representing the kindergarten and primary schools welcomed the Rotarians the next morning at the inauguration of the playground in Burgos. They joined the Mayor in thanking the Club and in expressing what a great gift the playground is to the community. Later, the club members spent time in some of the smaller outlying communities to get a feel for the needs of the area and possible future involvement and projects.

CSP & IBB The Child Sponsorship Program continues to impact families with the love of Christ. Monthly, children receive help from their sponsors in the form of food, clothes, school supplies, etc. Occasionally, special needs arise or sponsors are able to do something extra for the child and his/her family. This month several sponsors sent extra gifts to their children. Some received bedding, toys, and clothes. Gustavo and Sandra, ages eight and six, from El Charco, got a bunk bed. This was a great help to the parents and 3 children who previously shared one bed.

Children in the program love to receive cards, letters, and photos from their sponsors. It has been a joy to watch them as they listen to PJ translate the card or go brag to their friends that they have "padrinos" in Texas. Most of these families have never traveled more than a few miles from their home. They hear stories about the United States from a family member who once worked there. It is like a fairy tale to many to have this relationship with their sponsor. Thank you to all the sponsors who are praying for and giving to these children.

The Instituto Bilbico de Burgos began new classes in March. Peto is a graduate of the institute and is leading this new group through its studies. The institute's library has grown in its membership to 60. English classes have become popular with elementary and junior high students. Our local ministry team is also taking the classes to help them in the future as we host groups on mission trips.

Thank You The verse at the beginning of this newsletter is such a challenge to us as we strive to let God's love fill us and flow out of us to others. We are so blessed by our many partners who give of their resources and prayers not only in their own communities, but also in Burgos. We can be sure of God's promises that we will "reap what we sow". As you give, remember it will be given back to you in many ways. Seeds grow into plants that are much larger than the seed ever was. We are blessed to see how your efforts are growing into great things and impacting families. Thank you.

Matt and PJ Burton



Andrew preparing IBB materials



installing El Charco playground



a new bed for a sponsored child



PJ delivering CSP gifts and letters



Micah - 3 years old on the 30th