

Clínica San José
Concepción Tutuapa
San Marcos, Guatemala, C.A.



April-May 2014

Dear Friend,

Our newest employee here at the clinic was hired to be our gardener and maintenance man. We soon realized he was a gem. He had his own ideas and wasn't intimidated to let us know them when we were scratching our heads because we had none. It is always a breath of fresh air when an employee has an idea to share. He is quick to learn, does the job well and actually cleans up after the job is done. He works faster than we can line up jobs for him.

He is nineteen years old and has a wife (Gloria) who is pregnant with her second baby and a one year old daughter Rosemary. Hermosillo was never able to finish school and always appeared sad; never smiled and very serious for his age. We later found out that he didn't smile because he was missing his front teeth due to poor nutrition. We commissioned our dental technician Eluvina to make him a bridge with four teeth. But even with new teeth Hermasillo still didn't smile and seemed very sad.

Hermasillo had always wanted to continue studying. As a boy when he'd ask his father about continuing his studies the response was always an angry "NO!" His dad is alcoholic and what he earns by periodic work he does not spend on the family. As a result Hermansillo only finished the third grade. With his job at the clinic he supports his wife and baby, his mother and six younger siblings.

We had a late night call from Hermansillo which was very unusual. He was at the edge of tears and it was hard to understand what he was saying. It was finally understood that his dad had kicked the whole family out of their house. They were all at the uncle's house. The next day we were told the whole story. "*Madre*, this is nothing new. He drinks all the time. He scares all my little brothers and sister." "Hermasillo, do you have any property with the papers that is in your name." "Yes, my grandmother who just died left me two acres." "Is it large enough to build an adobe house and plant corn? Does it have a source of water on it?" "*Madre* it is large enough for a house but not for corn." "How about electricity, does it have an electrical line close by?" "Yes the electrical pole is close *Madre*." "This is the time to build with *adobe* isn't it, before the rains start?" "Yes *Madre*." "After work talk to Gloria and decide where to put your *adobe* house. Also, talk with your mother. She and your brothers and sister can't stay in that situation either." "But *Madres*, I won't be able to pay you back." "Hermasillo, you won't have to we have some very good people who want to help. Just figure out what you need. "Where are you living now?" "With my uncle but he also drinks but not as much." Before this all happened, Hermasillo had brought his daughter in for consults several times because she was not eating. We think now it was because of the abusive situation she was living in.

After the "cost-analysis" of building an *adobe* house Hermasillo told us that, "My neighbor said he had 2,000 adobe blocks already made. He would charge ten quetzals (\$ 1.29) per block plus deliver it to the site and put up the house." This sounded too good to be true. "Is 2,000 blocks enough to build a house and a kitchen for you and all your family?" "I think so *Madre*, we can get more as we need them." Along with *adobe* brick there was lumber to be cut and dried, corrugated tin roofing, cement, sand and gravel for the foundation and a *pila* (cement sink for washing clothes and dishes). The entire house would cost about \$ 6,500.00.

In the following days we could see a visible change in Hermosillo. A heavy burden had been lifted from his thin shoulders. He was smiling and we could actually see the new teeth. He was enthusiastic about everything he did. It was as if a light was at the end of the long dark tunnel he had been traveling in for the last nineteen years.

We were hoping that Gloria wouldn't deliver her baby before the house was finished, but no one has control of that. Baby-girl Ramos will have her own home to go to within a few month. Meanwhile, Hermosillo was able to purchase the corn field next to the new house so when the new baby is six months old she will be around for the first harvest of corn from their own field. She'll probably have her own name by then also!

All six of our employees have benefited from your generosity with housing, scholarships, interest-free loans, food subsidies, 100 % health insurance (medical/dental) for them and immediate family if treated at the clinic. Their lives have improved considerably as you can see by these photos of Hermosillo and his family. They are extremely grateful to you for your generosity and for sharing with them your resources. For you they offer their daily prayers as do we.

With gratefulness,
The Presentation Sisters in the Highlands of Guatemala,

Sister Elizabeth (Liz) Remily

Sister Joanna (Annie) Bruno



Photos from top left:
Hermosillo works at the clinic; Hermosillo with his entire family; Hermosillo with his wife and new baby; new home and adjacent corn field; Hermosillo's family.