

# The GOOD NEWS

La Gran Familia

Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua

APRIL 2020

## FOUR TO GRADUATE FROM ELEMENTARY THIS SPRING

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

### ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of La Gran Familia Inc. will be held at 1:30 PM on Saturday, April 4, 2020 at St. Vincent's Cathedral in Bedford, TX. It is hoped that all board members will attend. It is an open meeting, and all who wish to attend are welcome. The meeting usually lasts about two hours. Unfortunately, the members of the La Gran Familia board from Mexico will not be able to attend at this time.

Come find out how great things are going at La Gran Familia; mark April 4 on your calendars, and please try to attend.

This spring, four of our kids at LGF will graduate from Elementary School and go on to Junior High School in the fall.

Reynaldo is twelve years old and has lived at LGF for seven years. He and his two brothers lived in Bocoyna in the mountains. They came to LGF when their mother abandoned the family. He wants very much to be a mechanic someday.



Luis is eleven years old and has lived at La Gran Familia for four years. The police brought Luis to LGF, after they found his father beating him in downtown Cuauhtémoc. Earlier, his mother had struck him over the head, and he had suffered a concussion. The blow to his head damaged his eyesight, but it took several years before anyone could tell that he could not see well. As he fell behind in school for no apparent reason, his eyes were tested by an optometrist who discovered that he had serious vision problems.



Thanks to your generous donations, LGF can afford excellent healthcare for all the children. Glasses have changed Luis' life. He excels at reading and art; things that previously he was careful to avoid doing. And of

course, he loves to play soccer, the Mexican national pastime.

Ángel has lived at LGF for 5 years. His mother divorced her husband, who was an alcoholic. Ángel and his brother were then forced to live with their grandmother, who was desperately poor, living in a cardboard house and on many occasions went without food. The children then were sent to LGF, a great blessing for them. Today Ángel goes to school, eats three meals a day, bathes, studies, and does homework. Ángel is a good student and enjoys science and soccer. He goes to "soccer school" two afternoons a week. He greatly appreciates being at LGF and wants to be a policeman someday.



Azul and her sister came to LGF about two years ago. Their mother worked in a Menonite cheese factory. The two girls were left alone in their home without anyone taking care of them. Their neighborhood was not safe and they were at risk. Azul loves to read and does well in school. She also enjoys playing touch American football and her team won first in their league. She appreciates very much living in a loving and supportive environment.







Iglesia del Gran Pastor

## ANGLICAN PRIEST SEEKS ASYLUM IN THE USA

Fr. Farhid Adabache was the pastor of an Anglican parish in Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico named Iglesia del Gran Pastor (Good Shepherd). He was ordained to the priesthood in the Anglican Church of North America in November and had planted a church in Mexico that had grown to about 80 people.

On January 4<sup>th</sup> of this year he was kidnapped and held for ransom in Fresnillo. Usually these sorts of kidnappings are resolved by the families making large cash payments and then they may or may not get their family member back alive. Farhid's kidnapping was resolved by the police rescuing him and freeing him.

The risk now is that the cartel will capture him again since he was freed by the police. He and his family have fled to the United States and are seeking asylum here. He sold his car in Mexico to pay for a lawyer to take his asylum case in the U.S.

He, his wife, and three of their children are living in New Mexico, but they cannot work until his case is resolved. Their financial situation is critical although some Anglicans have provided them with housing. LGF will be trying to assist them as much as we can. If you would like to help, you can do that through LGF.



## EXCITING SUMMER TRIP

Barbara and Dean Hautanen will be leading a group that will spend the week of July 13-17 putting on a Vacation Bible School near La Gran Familia Orphanage. If you are over 18 and would like to go on the trip, please contact Barbara Hautanen at (817) 915-2535. Those attending will be staying in the La Gran Familia compound.

There is an upcoming team meeting for the trip to LGF this summer. We will meet at St. Vincent's HQ (Head Quarters) on Saturday, April 4th, at 11:30. Please note the date & location has changed. The meeting is no longer in the conference room. Please park on the south side of the building close to the red door. That is the HQ where we will meet. Team meetings are very important. It is much easier to become a part of the team if you know one another and are at the meeting to contribute to the planning!! Please let Barbara know whether or not you will be at the meeting so that she will be prepared.

Barbara (dbhautanen@msn.com)



On the day he was rescued

In Fr. Adabache's own words...

...“On November 24, 2019, I was outside of our church building a half an hour before the church service was to begin, when a vehicle pulled up and three guys made me get in. I knew in that moment that my life would never be the same again. I have never prayed as much as I did during those days.

I had been kidnapped! I, who was a man of God, a man of faith, a pastor. Why? Fortunately, I had read the whole story of Job and I knew how it ends; I knew that God would answer, and with great authority.”

## UPDATE ON LA GRAN FAMILIA AND THE CORONA VIRUS

As it has for all of us, the Corona virus has brought about significant changes. The first is that we had planned to bring nine staff and Mexican board members to the April 4 board meeting in Bedford; however, it now seems that bringing them across the border and the risk of them getting sick and self-quarantined in the United States was not a good idea. The U.S. board will still meet as previously scheduled.

The other discussion that we have had is whether to keep all the children at LGF during the next few weeks. “Social distancing” at a home like LGF is a really difficult goal and many of the children have some sort of relative where they could be sent. Since most of them would be sent to rather remote mountain villages in the Tarahumara Mountains that have little or no medical service, Martin decided that they would be safer at La Gran Familia.

We ask for your prayers for the children and also for a more prompt and aggressive response from the Mexican government. We do take some comfort in the fact that the most susceptible to the disease seem to be the elderly, not the children. The whole situation is uncharted waters for all of us and we ask for your prayers.



# WHO MAKES LA GRAN FAMILIA POSSIBLE? YOU DO!

Lori Adams, TX	The Rev. & Mrs. Billy Disch, TX	Dan Howard, TX	Susan Meyers, TX	Jon & Donna von Rosenberg, TX
Greg & Martha Anderson, TX	Charles Dowden, TX	Heather Hughes, TX	Mr. & Mrs. Chip Miller, TX	Dr. & Mrs. Travis Schaar, TX
Fred & Miriam Antonini, TX	Stephen Driscoll, TX	Mark & Debbie Jeffers, TX	Mr. & Mrs. Leon Miller, TX	Sandra Seifert, TX
Linda Applegate, Iowa	George Embry, TX	Bill Jennings, TX	David Morgan, TX	Lori Smithwick, TX
Joel and Elaine Bailey, TX	Bob Ferguson, TX	Rem Johnston, IL	John Munson, TX	Milissa Snider, WY
Nan Barber, TX	Rev. & Mrs. Russell Fisher, TX	The Joiner Family, TX	Steve & Nancy Murray, TX	Barb & Jack Strasser, TX
Bob & Peggy Beckham, TX	Virginia Foster, TX	Mr. & Mrs. Pete Kastner, NC	Blane Nunez, TX	Kay Stromberg, TX
Mr. & Mrs. Dre Beesley, TX	Patty Fuller, TX	Michael Kense, TX	Monica Overly, WY	Hazel Taylor, TX
Mr. & Mrs. Hamp Beesley, TX	Shawn Glanzer, NC	Mr. & Mrs. Craig Kinney, TX	Kurt & Mary Frances Partlow, TX	Sharon Templeton, TX
Alex & Caitrin Benavides, TX	Mr. & Mrs. David Gould, TX	Virginia Konopka, CT	Andy & Judy Perrier, TX	Mr. & Mrs. Christopher S. Till, TX
The Rev. & Mrs. Tom Bruns, TX	Marilyn Gragg, TX	Mr. & Mrs. Laurie Lasater, TX	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Phillips, TX	Steven Turley, TX
Toby Calvert, TX	Mindy Gray, TX	Barbara Lettunich, TX	Janna Polland, TX	Ray & Jan Upham, TX
John & Judy Choate, TX	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Gregg, TX	Dr. & Mrs. Jack Lewright, TX	Glenn & Mollie Polhemus, TX	Sherry Waldon, TX
Rebecca Christensen, TX	Jack Grigsby, TX	Ann Light, TX	Charles Poteet, TX	The Rt. Rev. William C. Wantland, OK
Betty Chumney, TX	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Harris, TX	Mr. & Mrs. Florentino Lopez, TX	Tom Purvis, TX	Elizabeth & Richard Ward, TX
Jane Coffee, TX	Bobby Hausser, TX	Craig & Julia Lundquist, TX	Scott & Dee Rasmussen, TX	Eban Warner, TX
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Cogan, TX	Dean & Barbara Hautanen, TX	Hans & Laura Luthi, TX	The Rev. & Mrs. Phil Ray, TX	James Westlake, TX
Tom & Cindy Crook, TX	Ken & Lorrie Hetherington, TX	Meredith Maharg, TX	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Reisdorfer, TX	Mary Williams, TX
Bettylu Cunningham, TX	Jim Hill, TX	Andrew & Karen Marks, TX	Kelly & Pat Riley, TX	Duke & Linda Wilson, TX
C. J. Curtoy, OH	Virginia Card Hill, KY	Wayland Marks, VA	David & Dianne Robbins, TX	David Winters, TX
Nicholas Daddario, MI	Charles Hillis, TX	Buffy Martinez, TX	Mary Roberts, TX	Mack Wood, TX
Jetty Davis, TX	Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Holik, TX	Donna Masterson, TX	Zeke & Adeline Rogers, TX	Don & Dede Young, TX
Jim & Patty Debenport, TX	Nan Holloway, TX	Holly Matusovich & Ed Colvin, VA	David & Barbara Rondeau, TX	
Dr. & Mrs. Charlie Deyhle, TX	Rosemary Holm, TX	Rose McCullough, TX	Mr. & Mrs. Louis Rork, TX	

Above & below is a list of the 2019 donating institutions & individual donors that make LGF happen. Without your support the lives of these children would go unchanged & hopeless. Thank you for your continuing prayers & financial support.

DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH, TX  
DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS - San Antonio, TX  
EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL - San Angelo, TX  
GOOD SHEPHERD ANGLICAN - Granbury, TX  
GOOD SHEPHERD, ANGLICAN - San Angelo, TX  
HEAVENLY REST EPISCOPAL - Abilene, TX  
HOLY CROSS ANGLICAN - Abilene, TX  
ST. ANDREW'S ANGLICAN - Grand Prairie, TX  
ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL - Alvarado, TX  
ST. BARNABAS EPISCOPAL - Odessa, TX  
ST. CLEMENT'S ANGLICAN - Muleshoe, TX  
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL - Jackson, WY  
ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN - Hurst, TX  
ST. VINCENT'S CATHEDRAL - Bedford, TX  
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING & ALL SAINTS' - Ft. Worth, TX  
WOMEN OF ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL - Coleman, TX  
BOB & PEGGY BECKHAM FAMILY FUND - Abilene, TX  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of Abilene, TX



CUAUHTÉMOC, CHIHUAHUA

## UPDATE

As we go to print with this newsletter edition, the response to the corona virus outbreak is a situation which is developing constantly. Mexico will now close schools nationwide from March 20 to April 20 in an effort to prevent the spread of corona virus infections. As you pray for your family and community, please remember to include the children and staff of LGF.

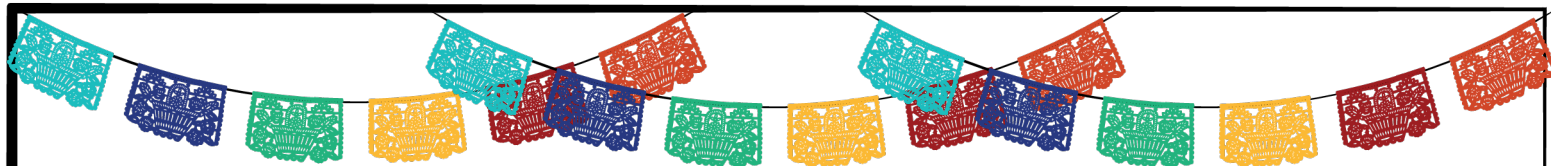
## UPDATED WEBSITE

Check IT OUT! Our new web address <https://lgfmexico.org/>

We've added more interactive tabs and features, like our latest video, past newsletters and information on upcoming meetings, mission trips, etc. Some future updates are still in the works, and we are researching the possibility of adding a safe, secure payment option for electronic donation transfers for the near future.

You may also email us on the "contact us" tab to let us know what kind of information or stories that you would like to see.

We will continue to keep our supporters updated as much as we possibly can. We thank you for your continued support, we wish you and your families well.



## La Gran Familia needs your help.

If you would like more information on how to become more involved in the mission of La Gran Familia, please direct your inquiries to:

Glenn Polhemus  
President

325-656-6244

[glenn@lagranfamilia.info](mailto:glenn@lagranfamilia.info)

Deirdre Hunter  
Director of Development

832-712-2700

[hunterd80@gmail.com](mailto:hunterd80@gmail.com)

<http://lgfmexico.org>

MARISOL  
AND  
CRUZ



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