

Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua

The GOOD NEWS

La Gran Familia

June 2020



above, Lalo on errands

VIOLENCE WORSENS

Last Sunday, May 24th, Claudia (the head tutor) and her family were on their way to a ranch that they own. They stopped at a store so that their eldest daughter, Abril, could use the restroom facilities. From there, some people seized the girl, forced her into their car and then fled toward the mountains. The police were able to stop the perpetrators in Guerrero and they were arrested. They never asked for ransom. Abril is now back with her mother and I'm pleased to say that she is doing well.



LOCK DOWN AT LA GRAN FAMILIA

The quarantine at the shelter began on Sunday, March 22. Classes in girls' and boys' schools were suspended. We were notified by Child Protective Services of the state of Chihuahua that we should secure the doors to the buildings. We made the decision that the shelter's teachers would no longer attend as a measure to prevent any contagion. So Martín formed a team that would stay to take care of the girls and boys. They were: Luisa and Lalo in the main building, Luz in the boy's house and Martín in support of them all. Lalo and Martín were named as those in charge of going out for the necessary food or medicine. The State of Chihuahua has sent us 30 boxes of food.

Family visits were suspended. A special schedule of activities was organized for the time spent in the hostel: physical exercise, reading, meditations, board games, cleaning, participation in mass online, naps, classes through television and internet. The older children are responsible for washing the clothes for the younger kids. Luisa prepares the meals. In all this time, Luisa, Lalo, and Luz have only had four days off. A teacher,



Cristina and Martín covered for them on the days off.

Claudia gives support from her home with school work

that is required for the students. Silvia, the office manager, does her office work from home. All helping staff are sheltering in their homes, but being paid, and ready to return to work when it is necessary.

In Cuauhtémoc, there are many closed businesses. There are two hospitals dedicated to caring for patients with Covid 19. Up to today, there are 28 persons hospitalized in Cuauhtémoc. Only one person has died. However, there are many people being killed by the cartels every day, five on 5/26/20. Most of the people with Covid 19 in the state of Chihuahua are in Juarez and Chihuahua City

In Cuauhtémoc, on the first day of June, stores and some jobs will begin to open. Although, girls and boys will not return to school until the start of the 2020-2021 school year, possibly in September. The graduations for Joel and Miguel from high school, Esmeralda and Maria from junior high and Reinaldo, Luis, Angel and Azul from elementary are not going to be held. They will receive their diplomas.

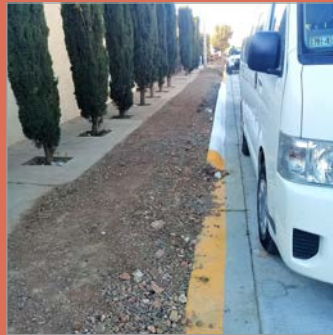
We don't always realize how Martín and his staff see their job as ministry. As you and I complain about the inconveniences that we face due to the Corona Virus, we should consider the commitment of these four employees. Please keep them and the 38 kids in your prayers.

The public health system in Mexico is not close to being equipped to face this challenge. Hopefully Martín's quarantine will reduce the risk of illness for our children, but please keep Mexico in your prayers, also.

PROGRESS IN THE MIDST OF UNCERTAIN TIMES



Dulce, cooking helper



Recent improvements to the road in front of La Gran Familia. Cement streets all around the neighborhood, including sidewalks to be added. A great improvement over dirt & rock.



Above, our kids getting exercise

GREETINGS TO LEONEL

Leonel, arrived on May 14th. The police found him walking the streets in Cuauhtémoc, during the night. He said that his mother had left him with an aunt. This aunt eventually took him downtown and abandoned him on the streets. The police took him back to the aunt's house, but there was no one there. They had all left.

He was brought to La Gran Familia by DIF, Child Protective Services of Mexico. Leonel is 11 years old and he is in the third grade. None of his family has been found at this time. Praise God, he is healthy and now safe.



POSSIBLE EXPANSION TO ANAHUAC

Rigo, a good friend of Martín is very active in community service in Anahuac, a town not far from Cuauhtémoc. He and Martín attended seminary together. Several board members have met with him. Recently, they discussed renting a house in Anahuac and providing a place for 10 children to live there with Rigo and employees to help him. This is how La Gran Familia got its start.

Pictured are some children (above & right) that are part of a feeding program that we are paying for in Anahuac. Rigo feeds them breakfast, possibly the only meal they will receive each day. Pray for Rigo and the continuing situation in Anahuac.



A NEW MISSION PARTNER

For several years we have delivered food to the Mexican border for use in orphanages and feeding stations where migrants are waiting to see if they can enter the United States. The group that provided us with the prepackaged meals was “Kids Against Hunger - Parker County.” Due to the Corona Virus, they have been unable to gather groups to produce the food, and we have used up their inventory.



They suggested that we contact “Kids Against Hunger - Tarrant County.” On April 15 the Tarrant County group joyfully loaded our trailer with 38,000 meals, 3 tons of food, for us to deliver to the El Paso area on April 16. About ½ of the food was distributed in the US and the other ½ went to orphanages in Juarez, Chihuahua City and the Tarahumara Indigenous groups in the mountains. The El Paso Group typically distributes about 2 tons per month. This was a great blessing. The food is provided to us free of charge. Transportation is our only expense. And God bless the people in El Paso who distribute the food to the many that desperately need it.



EXCITEMENT FOR THE DAY

A round of severe weather hit the region back in April. There were very high winds in Cuauhtémoc. The neighbor's roof blew onto the patio behind Martín's house.

I bet it was a relief to the boredom. Also, it shows the new street in front of the houses. Thank God no one was hurt.



CUAUHTÉMOC, CHIHUAHUA

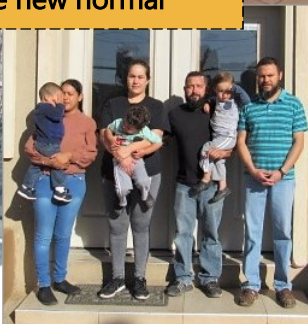
OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES

We mourn the sudden passing of **Luis Octavio Dozal Estrada**, the father to Tavo and Flor Dozal Lerma; also, father-in-law to Fr. Martín Córdova. A resident of Guerrero, **Señor Dozal**, 64, was a longtime State Government official, who will be missed by all of his comrades. He was a great father, grandfather and an amazing man by all accounts! A true pillar in his community, humble, well respected and always willing to help anyone in need!





The new normal



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:

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La Gran Familia is a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization

Reading
a
Favorite
Pastime



La Gran Familia

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