

Greetings in the name of Jesus:

My time in Guatemala has been such a blessing. I officially arrived at HOME on May 20th midmorning. I had orientation with Sis. Lynne Jewett, Sis. Amber Corey, and one of the little ones who had the chickenpox. Since then, life around here has not stopped. The day after, we had regional convention. During that convention, several received the Holy Ghost and were baptized in Jesus name. I felt so blessed to be able to be a part of it.



Life here in the orphanage has been riveting to say the least. Something always has to be done around here. Each morning, either me or my fellow AIMer Anna goes over to the children's house and packs the children's lunches and dresses them. Despite not being a morning person, I really do look forward to being greeted by ten smiling faces in the morning. I have grown to love these children, and they have become ten of the reasons I smile in the



morning. They also keep me going in the afternoon. My afternoons here at HOME are spent in the library. There, I assist the teacher on-site with the children's assignments. This means running for supplies both in and outside of HOME, preparing review sheets for the children, helping all ten children with their homework, or even physically carrying screaming children outside of the classroom. I help the teacher with anything and everything I can. These children are not average children who can rationalize or control emotions. Our children have experienced trauma affecting their brains, emotions, and lifestyles. However, this

challenge does not stop us from loving, helping, teaching, and guiding them. Not every day has been calm here; however, every day is rewarding here.

Apart from helping at HOME, Anna and I have been working on a special project for the Bible Institute of Guatemala. Our objective was to create 250 envelopes packed with more envelopes as a fundraiser. Churches here take the big envelope and mix the envelopes inside. The envelopes inside have a quantity to give, and whichever envelope people choose is the quantity to be given. This project was initiated before I came, but I have been working with Anna since I came nonstop. Thankfully, we finished a couple of days back. The envelopes will be turned in and passed out throughout this month. These envelopes are supposed to raise several thousands of dollars for the Bible Institute. Hence, a couple dozen hours put in at the office does not bother me at all. I cannot express how blessed I feel to contributing to the country of Guatemala.



Nonetheless, as much as I can contribute to Guatemala, it is these children who are pouring into me. For a couple of weeks, we had eight of our ten children with the chickenpox. This meant more time spent with the children due to exemption from school. I was with them in the morning trying to keep them on task with schoolwork. During this time, I had the chance to know



them more and love them more. Their love is so plentiful and abounding. These children have given me so many hugs, kisses, drawings, presents etc. One girl started imitating my hairstyles. Another little one has given me several pieces of artwork. And just this morning, one little boy handed me a little stuffed toy. He had earned it this week from his good behavior. I looked at him and asked him if he was sure he wanted to give me his prize. He batted at me with his long eyelashes, smiled up at me without his two front teeth and gave me a tremendous hug exclaiming "Si Tia Juli!" Although I have only been here a month, I feel so at home here. Since the moment I stepped onto HOME property, I have felt nothing but pure love. These children have taught me what love is, how to give it, and how to receive it. I came to love them, but they have loved me ten times more.