

A Magazine from **missionary ventures**

INVOLVE

Since 1983

Serving in 72 countries

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CENTRAL AMERICA
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Involving People to Impact Nations for Christ

letter from the **PRESIDENT**

Dear Friend of Missionary Ventures,

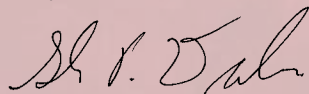
God's heart beats for the fatherless! Growing up the second oldest in a large family (six boys and one girl—in that order), I had many opportunities to help care for my siblings. I assumed all families were like ours. We had a dad and a mom and, even though we were poor by the world's standards, we had plenty of love to spare. In college, my heart's desire was to become a teacher and work with children. I went on a short-term mission trip my junior year, and God broke my heart when I realized there are many children who've never received His love and live in hopeless situations. That summer, God made it clear to me that He is crazy about children.

After graduation, I moved to Kenya, Africa, and ministered and taught in a school of 350 children. These precious children were mostly orphaned and wouldn't have had an opportunity to know Jesus and receive an education apart from our school. It was in Kenya, through many challenges and loss of life among our students, that my heart once again was broken, and God began to give me a desire to become personally involved.

What could I do, just one person, in reaching His children around the world? God lead me to Missionary Ventures where there are so many opportunities to help. Just last week, I was in Peru and cried my eyes out when I met Maybele and Marta. Maybele is confined to a wheelchair, and her throat is closing up. MVI is doing everything we can to save her life. Not only is Marta HIV positive, but her mother passed away during childbirth. God is crazy about these girls.

In this issue of *Involve*, Gus and Becky Ramirez remind us about the eyes of the children. You'll read about Francisco, Irma, Claudia, and one of my favorites, Anahi. Linda and I understand the pain of Norberto and Julie as they waited on God's timing for their daughter. We rejoice, as all do within the MVI family, at the miracle of their adoption.

If you would like to see how MVI, through your generous donations, is caring for poor and desperate children around the world, watch online (www.mvi.org/children) or call to order your DVD at 407-859-7322. Did I mention that I'm nearly as crazy about these kids as God is?



Glen P. Dubois President

P.S. Any end of the year gift you send enables us to go forward for Jesus.



Maybele (above) and Marta (below).



It's in the EYES

**By Becky Ramirez,
MVI Donor and
Prayer Partner**



The EYES have it! The most notable features of the children Gus and I are privileged to meet at the schools we are involved with in Central America are their EYES! They are bright, smiling and alert! It is always refreshing to witness the joy their eyes exude as well as their appreciation for the opportunity to attend a school where a strong academic base is formed and the joy of knowing

schooling consists of copying by rote from a blackboard. Oftentimes, the students arrive for class to find no educators. Education usually is 'last' for girls in Central America. The children struggle to learn in this environment and it is easy to become 'lost' and turn to less

Hope is evident; dreams of a better future are being formed.

Jesus is shared. We have observed a transformation in the lives and hearts of children all over Central America. Children in the countries of Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador are underserved educationally by their country's public schools. The classrooms are over-crowded, with insufficient learning materials and furniture. Much

desirable means of existence.

What a delight it is to experience the learning taking place in schools like Casa D'Attaraya in El Salvador; Las Huellas del Maestro in Honduras; Nicaragua Christian Academy I And NCA II in Nicaragua...only to name a few. Hope is evident; dreams of a better future are being formed. Most importantly, God's

Truth is learned in the atmosphere provided to these young people who are the future of their countries. Here they learn to walk with God while developing values and disciplines which will be used during their lifetime. They develop a new vision and purpose. For me, it is evident in their EYES!

Francisco, who is learning freedom

I am reminded of Francisco who is learning freedom from the oppression his family has faced. Francisco’s dream is to become an entrepreneur—pursuing business, combining his baking and cooking skills. Through his Christ-centered education, his goal is becoming real. While a student, he has been helping with the feeding program at the school, giving his time, talent, even cleaning skills back to his school, at the same time setting an example for the other students to see and learn from. He is presently studying baking/trade classes through a local trade school while completing his education.



Irma, realizes her value to God

Irma, one of five children, came to school as a quiet and shy 3rd grader, unable to read. She had the mentality that, as a girl, her place was only to clean, cook and serve—without the hope to change that mind-set so ingrained in the country. Now, as a 7th grader, Irma’s confidence has grown, she commented that she felt valued and more able to express herself. She is now reading at grade level, is a leader in her youth group and “realizes her value to God.”

Claudia, wants to become a pediatric doctor

Claudia, another student at an MVI-related school, has wanted to become a pediatric doctor. Her younger brother’s poor health has given her opportunities to experience the frustration of depending on the local health care system where hundreds of people line up at the common medical center hoping to be able to see a doctor. She is now an 11th grade student taking accelerated science and health courses at the school. Her family is poor: Her mother, a hard-working woman, makes tortillas to sell in the market. Claudia’s education has enhanced her goals:

She wants to give back to her community, working with children needing care in the area. Her eyes demonstrate the hope within her.

The eye is the lamp of the body. Matthew 6:22

The eyes of the students we meet at the various Christ-centered schools across Central America are truly the windows to their souls. It is evident. These children are acquiring knowledge and advancing. Most importantly, they are learning to walk with God and shine for Him.



► Memorials

We wish to thank the many generous donors to MVI who have impacted the lives of others in memory of the following people who passed away.

**Jim Ackley
Ken Bay
Dean Dillhoff**

**Rick Hill
Violet Kenning
Agustin Adan Ramirez**

Norberto & Julie Kurrle,
Field Coordinators in
Paraguay, with their
children Timmy and
Anahí



The Heart of the Gospel

I've always wanted to have a big family. We'd been praying for God to bless us with children since we got married over eleven years ago. Naively, I thought that children would come easily for us, but that simply wasn't the case. After years of fertility treatments and a surgery, there was still no baby in our arms. However, an MVCCanada short-term team worked with us and they prayed for me (along with the prayers of many others) and to our complete delight, we conceived naturally! Our son Timothy was born in Paraguay around Thanksgiving of 2005.

We continued to go to the Lord and ask him to build our home (Psalm 127:1). We were thrilled again to discover we were pregnant in 2008, only to have our hearts broken two months later after learning the pregnancy was

ectopic. I lost the use of one Fallopian tube and continued to hope and pray for another miracle.

In my heart, I had always considered adoption, but I wasn't sure what Norberto thought of it. When I threw out the, "So, what do you think about adoption, honey?" bomb; it didn't go over too well. He turned down the idea immediately. I knew that only God would be able to change his heart and so I prayed to myself that God would speak to Him about adoption if that was His desire for our family.

Naively, I thought that children would come easily for us, but that simply wasn't the case.

The Heart of the Gospel Message

God did just that. When Norberto was at a radio conference in 2009, one of the breakout sessions was called, “The Miracle of Adoption” and he felt God nudging him to participate in the session even though it had nothing to do with radio. He knew the Lord was speaking to him during that talk and he couldn’t help but let the tears flow when he realized that adoption is something that first began with God. Because of His great love and sacrifice on the cross, He adopted you and me as his children. Adoption is the heart of the Gospel message.

We began the adoption process to adopt a Paraguayan orphan shortly after returning home and again we thought the baby would come soon. It didn’t happen that way at all. We waited 20 months without hearing any news on our adoption. It was a difficult season to say the least. We would call the adoption agency and they wouldn’t return our calls. We wondered if our file was lost or if anything would come of our case. We couldn’t understand that although there are around 2,500 orphans in Paraguay, only ten children were adopted from the entire nation of Paraguay in 2010. Worse yet, we found out that there were 90 families on the waiting list, many waiting years longer than us. We thought it would take several years for us to bring our child home and we cried out to Jesus for god speed and faith to continue in the whole crazy process.

Out of the Blue

Then, we received a call from the adoption agency out of the blue in July. They told us that our baby girl was waiting for us and we could visit her on July 20. That was literally the only information we received; we didn’t even know her name. We drove six hours to get to the capital where all the babies are held

and that day we were able to meet our little girl. When we saw her, we couldn’t believe how beautiful she was and how much she resembled Timothy! She immediately held her arms out for Norberto and even though we were strangers it was as if God told her, “This is your family, my child!” She was as content as can be and was enamored with her big brother. We visited her three more times while waiting for the judge to grant us guardianship of our little girl. We brought Esther Anahí home on Sept. 2, 2011, just three weeks before her first birthday.

God’s Heart Beats for the Fatherless

We thank God for both our miracle children! We believe that God’s heart beats for the fatherless and He desires to put them in loving families. (Psalm 68:5-6) We are grateful that out of 90 families waiting for a child in Paraguay, that He chose us to raise up Esther Anahí. Our prayer is that all of our children become warriors for the Lord to impact their generation.

147 Million Orphans

If you are prayerfully considering adoption (domestic or international), don’t hesitate. There are over 147 million orphans around the globe that need God’s love in Christ-centered homes. Adoption has changed our lives and given us numerous opportunities to share our story of God’s grace and provision in our family. God is building our home, and He’s doing it in His timing and His way.

Norberto and Julie Kurrle have been serving with MV in Paraguay as Field Coordinators since 2002 in the areas of Radio, Leadership Development and Children’s ministries. They have two beautiful children, two big dogs and their desire is to see lives (starting with their own) changed for God’s glory. You can read more about their adventures on their blog: www.kurrles.blogspot.com

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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*



ARE YOU UP FOR A CHALLENGE?

Are you ready to burn a few calories and raise funds for those who need your help? Would you like to make a difference on February 25? Then join Missionary Ventures in our third annual 5K Fun Run.

We are calling on you to participate in your city on February 25 at 8:30 AM. The MVI 5K Fun Run can be as simple as running/walking in your neighborhood or at a local park to run/walk the 5K together. Every person who registers will receive a t-shirt to wear during the run/walk.

Do you live in Greater Orlando? If you live in the Orlando area, join us at Cypress Grove Park (290 W Holden Avenue, Orlando, FL 32839) at 8:30 AM to run/walk the 5K (3.1 miles). Simply indicate this on the registration form – www.mvi.org/5k.

MVI friends are located all around the world. Here are some other cities where the 5K is being hosted.

- Tampa, Florida
- Terrace Palms, Florida

Gear up for a little friendly competition

- The top 3 finishers (men & women) at each run will be awarded a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place ribbon.
- All children (ages 0-16) who participate will receive a ribbon.
- The top three fundraisers of the entire 5K will receive one of these prizes – **1st place Kindle e-reader, 2nd place iPod Shuffle, 3rd place Visa gift card for \$30.** (In order to be eligible for this prize, the funds you raise must be sent in under your name.)

Please consider joining us on February 25 as we make a difference in the lives of people around the world.

▶ **Watch Here**



www.mvi.org/5k Visit our website for more information about how you can make a difference on February 25.

missionary ventures

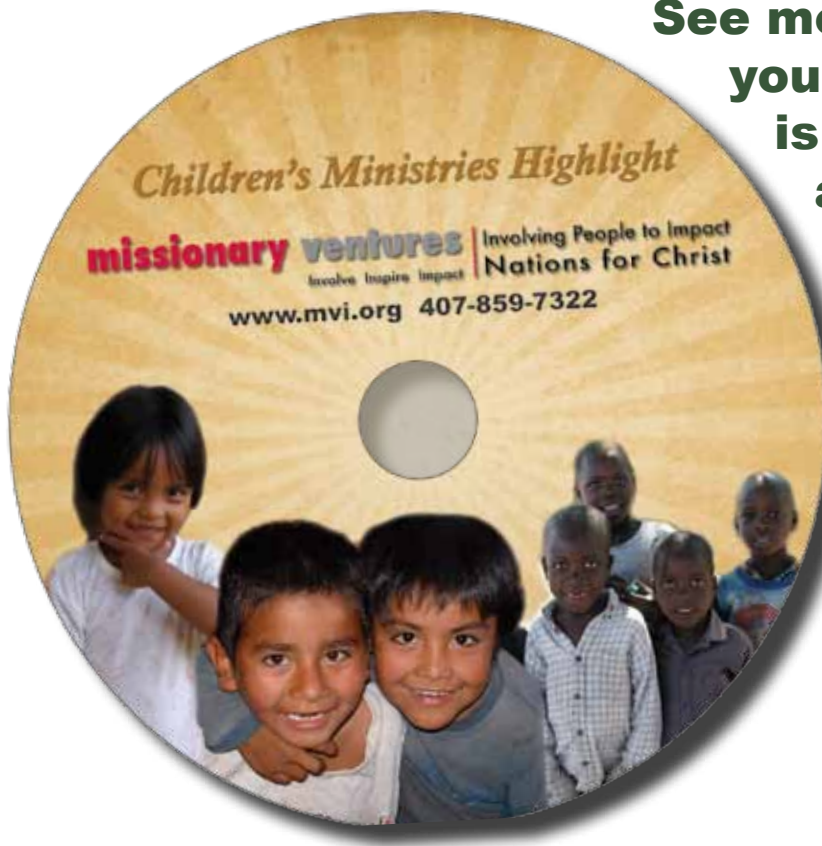
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Involve Inspire Impact



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For your convenience, use a QR scanner on your smart phone to watch the video now.

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