

January 24, 2008

Dear family and friends,

Last night we were talking with Pastor Martin and his wife Claudia. They were updating us on what is happening in Tijuana. Daily, we read the San Diego newspapers. We have been following the reporting of the violence in the last 3 weeks.

The drug cartels are fighting everyone that is trying to stop them....or at least slow them down. Fifteen people have been executed in the last 11 days. An assistant chief of police was followed home and once he and his family went to bed, the gunmen broke into their home and shot him, his wife and their 12 year old daughter. Back in November, in Rosarito, the cartels killed 3 police officers, cut their heads off and deposited them on the doorway of the police station. These officers had given info to the federal police about drug dealing in this beautiful beach town.

Fortunately Pastor Angel is in the country about ½ hour from Rosarito, so P.T.L. they are safe. Pastor Martin says that there is a spirit of fear that has risen over the city. Nobody wants to venture in the downtown area for fear of being caught in a gun battle. The police have made some arrests.....2 of the gunmen were actually off duty police officers.....It is common knowledge that the police often cooperates with the drug cartels and even works for them.

In the colonias, it is actually safer, but there are always the local drug dealers. Measures have been taken by our leaders to assure the safety of the children on their way to and from churches services.

Also this has been the coldest winter Tijuana/Rosarito has seen in years. It rains almost every week. Because the children live in shacks with only a dirt floor and of course no heat, many are sick. They are coughing and Pastor Martin was telling us that some are still shivering when they get to the church. Our faithful ladies are preparing warm meals and hot drinks. Claudia said that some of the kids are so hungry that they have not only receive two but three and four servings. They sleep with their clothes and shoes on. If they have wool hats and mitts they sleep with those also.

One of the greatest needs right now is blankets.

We asked them to go and shop for blankets. Usually in the downtown area one can find good deals, but with the violence right now, we told them to look elsewhere, even in San Diego. TLCCM has already started to send funds to buy rice and beans for the children to bring home after church services. Last night we told them to buy some Ramen soup in individual packs. The kids love those and it will keep them warm for a little while.

Our hearts so want to be there with our leaders like we were when these situations arose in the past. In times like those, we would drop everything else and smuggle warm clothing across the border....sometimes making more than one trip a day.

Pastor Angel who was our driver for 10 years, would leave with a van full of good food and deliver it to our TLCCM locations. This way our leaders had plenty of food to feed the children and often the adults that would show up at the church because the inside of their house was wet and cold.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS AND FOR THE CHILDREN IN OUR TLCCM PROGRAM. Pray for protection and provision.

We are so very grateful for all of you who generously support this ministry on an ongoing basis and we never want to put pressure on anyone for additional funds. But, if some of you can help us with buying blankets for “our kids” in Tijuana and Rosarito, it would be most appreciated.

Our mailing address is:
Tender Loving Care Children Ministries
129 Ludlowe Street
Orleans, Ontario K4A 5C2

Thank you for reading this letter, for your prayers and for your compassion.

We will keep you posted.
Sincerely,
Roger and Denise xx