

# Capstonemissions

*Building a better future for Tijuana's orphans and homeless.*

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<http://www.capstonemissions.org>

Aug, 2005

## A Fantastic experience!!! By Bob Fritsch



As a "first timer" I wasn't sure what to expect on the trip but knew it would be a great experience. It wasn't a great experience but a fantastic experience!!!

There were many highs. Among them was the spirit of faith one could feel during the Sunday mass. The entire Castro family was stunning in their generosity, with the sharing of their two homes for a wandering clan from Idaho and a wonderful cookout they provided Friday night. Tremendous bonding took place among the team members who all had extremely different back grounds. There was a sense of pride in a construction job well done, by a group of rookies like this writer who barely knew a hammer from a screwdriver. The knowledge gained by all about a different culture, new skills, new friends, and the ability to endure 19 hours in a packed car/truck will not soon be forgotten.

There were some lows as well but they were few in number. The disappearance of the borrowed new pick up was a stunner. There was a sense of frustration in being unable to do more on the second work site due to a lack of time. Our patience was tested by how much time is required to bridge the communication gap when purchasing supplies, and

by the constant adventure of getting around Tijuana. Perhaps the most humbling experience of all was seeing the overwhelming poverty that exists 15 miles from one of the richest cities in America. I look forward to another trip which I know will be another fantastic experience.

## Spiritual Corner – Our Priesthood – by Chuck Skoro

A few weeks ago I was reading a reflection by Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio. He said that someone asked him why the Catholic Church doesn't allow women and married men to be priests. He replied that the Church has several hundred million priests who are women and about as many priests who are married men. By our baptism we all participate in what is called the "priesthood of all believers."

Dr. D'Ambrosio went on to explain that specially ordained sacramental priests serve the community of believers by lifting up the bread and wine, offering it to God, and saying the words that Jesus asked us to pray in memory of him – "This is my body . . . This is my blood." The Holy Spirit works through the priest's actions and words to make truly present the body and blood of our Savior. The priesthood that the rest of us share calls us to go out into the whole world and lift it up to God. Through us and our actions the Holy Spirit blesses and sanctifies the world. Through us and our actions, the Kingdom of God is made truly present on this earth.

Of course, the bread and wine don't become the real presence of Jesus because of the priest's holiness or some sort of special power he has. The Holy Spirit works through the priest even when he is wounded and faulty. And I'm sure God can deal equally well with our imperfections as long as we remember to lift our world up and ask that it (and ourselves along with it) be transformed into something holy.

### Mission Statement

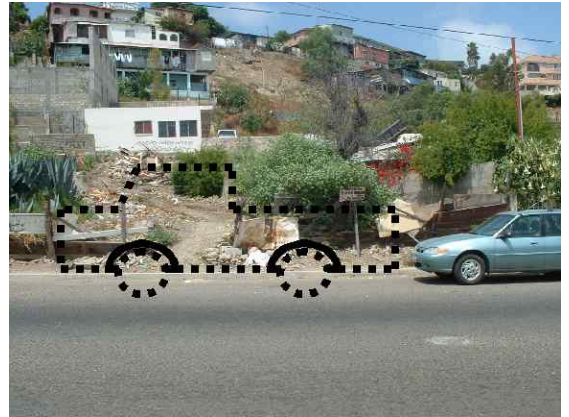
We serve Christ as He lives in the orphaned children and the homeless in Tijuana, Mexico. Capstone Missions builds and improves houses with volunteer labor and provides direct financial support to key ministries. We partner with other Catholics ministering in Tijuana who operate in the tradition of Mother Theresa and Dorothy Day in providing for the needs of the most impoverished.

Our primary goal is to provide financial security and sound housing for St. Joseph's Home, so that the children there may thrive. Other important goals are:

- To serve other Catholic relief and contemplative organizations in Tijuana.
- To provide cross-cultural service opportunities for volunteers, especially young adults.

## What happened to the truck???? – by Deb Miciak

“Did someone take the pick up to get supplies already?” Thus began the still unresolved stolen truck saga; the low spot of Capstone Mission’s most recent trip to Tijuana in June, 2005. Our third morning began with the realization that we had become one of the stolen vehicle statistics that are unfortunately common south of the border. After the initial shock, there was a sense of relief that we had purchased Mexican insurance prior to crossing the border. Thankfully, Capstone’s bilingual friend, Felix Castro was available to help with the confusing and often frustrating process of reporting the theft and filing a claim with the insurance company. Several days later, armed with multiple reports and even more stories about the process (which included two hours outside the Tijuana prison, a meeting and well placed phone calls by Mother Antonia, the “Mother Teresa” of the famous La Mesa prison), we were on our way home, confident that while inconvenient, the problem would be resolved and most, if not all of the loss would be covered. The recovery of the stripped truck in San Diego a few days later didn’t help the situation, and with an unsatisfactory initial response from the Mexican insurance company, the truck’s U.S. insurance company is now involved.



Quite possibly the worst part of this incident is that Capstone’s good friend and former Tijuana volunteer Hank Hafliger had loaned us the truck for this trip since we had not been able to find another truck to take us down and use while working in Tijuana. While we are still awaiting the final resolution of the truck theft, there are two issues that have emerged as priorities for Capstone. The first is that Capstone will endeavor to ensure that Hank is reimbursed financially for his loss. We are not able to remove the inconvenience and frustration that he has gone through as a result of this. However, our hope is that he will be blessed for his generosity and patience! Secondly, Capstone is beginning the process of reexamining our security and insurance arrangements in order to continue doing mission work in Tijuana. Thirdly, we need Capstone-owned vehicles; ideally a passenger van and a crew cab. But we are open to any kind of vehicle in good condition, for someone who would like to donate and receive a tax-deduction. Stay tuned – more to be revealed!

## Capstone Missions First Annual *Golfing for Orphans!!!*

*Don’t miss this great event!! Put a team of 4 together or we will find you a fun team to play on. \$75/apiece includes 18 holes of golf, cart and BBQ Lunch and door prizes. Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005*

[Eagle Hills Golf Course](http://www.capstonemissions.org). 605 N Edgewood Lane Eagle, ID 83616-5315.

- 8:00 am Registration and Silent Auction begins.
- 9:00 am Shot gun start.
- 1:00 pm BBQ Luncheon and team award presentation.
- 2:00 pm Raffle drawing for weekend trip and Silent Auction ends.

All proceeds go to **St. Joseph's Home for Disabled Children**. Register online or get more details at [www.capstonemissions.org](http://www.capstonemissions.org) !

For any questions, please contact Molly by email at [molly@capstonemissions.org](mailto:molly@capstonemissions.org) or by phone at 208.938.5909

### *Some ways you could help with this fundraiser are:*

1. Pray for us, the orphans, and the success of the scramble.
2. Get a team of golfers (or just a bunch of friends that TRY to golf) to play in the scramble.
3. Buy and/or sell a raffle ticket for a Sun Valley weekend.
4. Help us spread the word.

## Win a weekend trip to Sun Valley!!!

200 raffle tickets are being sold for the following:

- Weekend for two at Sun Valley Lodge
- Sunday Brunch for two at the Sun Valley Lodge
- Dinner for two at the Ketchum Grill

If you are interested in buying or helping to sell some tickets at your church or to your friends, this would be a great help! Please contact [carol@capstonemissions.org](mailto:carol@capstonemissions.org) for more information.

## Next Trip to Tijuana

The next trip to Tijuana will be October 29<sup>th</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005. This will be an “open” trip in which we encourage anyone that feels called to working and living in Tijuana for a week to come and participate. The work is strenuous and the hours are sometimes long, so please be prepared for the physical demands of these trips. The cost is \$300 per person participating in a trip. This covers fuel, Mexican insurance for vehicles, and most meals. The lion’s share of the expense is to cover building materials for the projects that we tackle for that week. Our goal is that each trip be self supported, to not take away from the financial resources committed to St. Joseph’s Home for Children. If you are interested, please contact Deb Miciak at 208-733-1187 or <mailto:deb@capstonemissions.org>. If you want to make a trip and just don’t have the financial resources, please contact us about possible scholarship assistance.



## St. Joseph’s Home for Children - An Update

Capstone Missions, through the generosity of so many people, provides over 80% of the financial support for the children and Sisters of St. Joseph’s Home in Tijuana. With much loving support, the children have had a very successful and solid year at St. Joseph’s. Ten of the thirteen children have been going to Catholic School this past year. Esther, 7, has responded wonderfully to these education opportunities. She had the highest grades in her class this past spring, and so was rewarded by going with Sr Monsarat to her home in Guadalajara for a week vacation.



Several of the children must attend special classes due to mental or learning disabilities. Anyone who has gone to St. Joseph’s with Capstone Missions during the children’s school year can attest to the substantial time and effort that the children spend on homework. The children and Sisters Maria Elena and Montserrat take their education very seriously.



The Sisters, who operate the home, see education as the key to a promising future for each of them. All of the thirteen kids at St. Joseph’s have medical conditions that will affect them throughout their lives. Education is the means that will give these children opportunities when the time comes that they must leave the home. Many well-meaning people when helping in similar situations are content to provide for food and shelter only, believing that education would be an “extravagance”. The board of Capstone Missions fully supports the Sisters’ goal of building a future for these children through education. We hope that you also see the need to provide support beyond the necessities of survival for a future of hope and promise for each of them.

In August, the children will begin a new school year. Sister Maria Elena hopes to have 12 of the 13 kids in school at that time - but the financial burden is very heavy. For each child there is an up front charge of nearly \$300 to register for the school year. The schools are very supportive of St. Joseph’s, but with the staggering poverty of the city - they can only help so much. **Please consider donating to Capstone Missions to support the amazing ministry of St. Joseph’s Home for Children.**

## Join Us In Our Vision!

Capstone’s vision is to create hundreds of sound homes and facilities for the most needy. We want the special needs children of St. Joseph’s to have every opportunity not only to survive, but to thrive; to go to college if they want, to live out rich and full lives. We envision hundreds more of Idaho’s young adults having the life-changing experience of serving Christ across national and cultural boundaries. We have a wonderful opportunity to serve Christ as He lives in these poorest of the poor.

If you are already contributing to Capstone missions, thank you!! Your pledge makes a vital difference to those we serve, and to the volunteers whose participation you enable.



If you are not involved with Capstone, we invite you to:

**Get involved!** Your pledge of financial support is crucial.

- Consider asking your parish or civic group to become a sponsor of Capstone.
- Apply to become a Capstone volunteer, and come to a work week in Tijuana.
- Keep Capstone and those we serve in your prayers.

Your financial support is critical. St. Joseph's Home for Children depends on Capstone Mission for most of its operating expenses. We ask that you consider making a financial pledge or contribution so that they may continue. As this is an all-volunteer organization, virtually all of your contribution will go to St. Joseph's and other missions. Make a tax-deductible pledge or contribution to: Capstone Missions P.O. Box 561 Jerome, ID 83338.

## Capstone Needed Items/Wish list...

- Pickup Truck
- 12 passenger van or mini vans
- School supplies
- Tuition costs for one child
- Used or new vehicle
- FUN(d) raising committee members
- Grant writers
- Building supplies and tools
- Skilled labors to go on mission trips



**You can now make payment through Paypal!!!...** Would you like to have a monthly automatic withdrawal from your account to help support this mission? Please contact Dar Wagner at [dar@capstonemissions.org](mailto:dar@capstonemissions.org) to set this up. You can also go to [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com) and send money to the following email address: [customerservice@capstonemissions.org](mailto:customerservice@capstonemissions.org) .

### Your Pledge

*Keep This Portion for Your Record*

I pledge(\$200, \$100, \$50, other \_\_\_\_ per month.

I will pay it : Monthly \_\_\_\_ quarterly \_\_\_\_  
other: \_\_\_\_\_.

*Make your tax-deductible check out to:*

Capstone Missions  
PO Box 561  
Jerome, ID 83338

### Contact Information

***In the Treasure Valley:***

Carol Brown (Coordinator) 208-658-4491

<mailto:carol@capstonemissions.org>

Chuck Skoro 208- 343-2128

<mailto:chuck@capstonemissions.org>

***In the Magic Valley:***

Dar Wagner 208-735-8123

<mailto:dar@capstonemissions.org>

Br. Selby Coffman 208-324-2377-215

<mailto:selby@capstonemissions.org>

*Return this portion to: Capstone Missions, P.O. Box 561, Jerome, ID 83338*

“I pledge (\$200, \$100, \$50, other \_\_\_\_ per month.

I will pay it \_\_\_\_monthly \_\_\_\_ quarterly \_\_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_.

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ “Contact me about the possibility of paying through an auto-deduct system or Paypal.”