

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM THE FOUNDATION!



Hello dear friends, I am enclosing photos of the day of the Christmas Play. During Christmas, the girls invited families and friends (including Nick) to our house. They worked hard for many days. We can feel the presence of God's love through the help that we have received from people. A big hug to everyone from the Bocca family, and we hope for a 2009 full of blessings for Bocca and for everyone who helps us continue our daily work. Happy New Year! Rosa

We at FCC received this picture and e-mail as a wonderful holiday greeting from Rosa Jimenez, director of Fundacion Sor Dominga Bocca. With little or no support from the government, this foundation in Guayaquil, Ecuador provides residential, educational, and counseling services to girls who have been severely abused or neglected by their families. We support its work through donations to Every Dollar Feeds Kids (EDFK) as well as other donations. Members of our church family have had the opportunity to visit the girls at the Foundation several times and have reported back that the work being done is truly miraculous.

Nick and Beatriz Dale (friends of our church who live in Guayaquil part-time) also sent their greetings. They were able to attend the party and wrote:

The girls simply did a wonderful job...a few singing and dancing routines...and a short nativity- themed play. We couldn't believe how much they must have practiced...it's too bad you couldn't have been there. Absolute fun! You all would have been so proud to be having a real role in the success of SDB.

What kept sticking in my mind ...and I have no psychology or counseling background...is how in the world all those happy faces could be worn by the same children as had undergone such horrible experiences? One girl, who I know from my on again/off again English group, was so proud when she told me she had been selected to be the Virgin Mary in the play. It rattled my brain to remember that she had been raped repeatedly from the age of 7, when her cousins discovered they could make some money renting her out to teenagers in the neighborhood. "

As an update on the repairs to the Foundation's aging building, funds donated by members of our church family have paid for a concrete floor to keep rats (from a vacant lot next door) out of the kitchen. Repairs to the roof are expected to start soon, which is a real blessing since the rainy season has started! Work still needs to be done on the building, including electrical work and work to create a private space for counseling sessions.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation so that the repairs can continue (or if you would like to make a donation for another purpose), please contact Clare Lindsey (860-628-0298, mlcbl58@hotmail.com), or send a check (made out to *First Congregational Church* with Foundation SDB in the memo line) to the Church Office. Monetary donations for food will be gratefully accepted by EDFK through the Church Office. And thank you!