

Hairdressers on a Mission

Day 1 to 3

Shannon (my daughter) and I flew to San Diego from Portland, Oregon this morning at 6:30AM where we will be meeting up with the other members of the group for this trip.

Mary Carskadon (head of the Hairdressers on a Mission) stopped by my salon with an old school bus she has on Thursday. All the clippers and shears that were donated by **OSTER Professional and Arius Eickert** along with equipment from **PIBBS Industries**, hair color, shampoo, conditioner and complete styling line of product from **SCRUPLES Professional** and complete full product line of **ARTEC** donated by **L'OREAL Professional** was loaded on the bus.

Eugene Beauty Supply out of Eugene, Oregon made a generous donation of many beauty supplies needed for the beauty school we adopted for this trip.

We hooked up with the others and when I picked up the rental van I found out that we needed to pick up 2 vans. One with full seats and one with all the seats taken out, it seems that Mary's bus broke down on the way but she and her grandson Cory forced it and made it to San Diego where she finally died. She blew a head gasket and with the engine needing 5 different fan belts only two made it with out breaking.



When we met up with Mary we had to switch the cargo out of the bus and into the empty van. We jumped right into it and repacked everything, covered it all with blankets so it wouldn't be seen as we crossed the Mexican border at Tijuana, Mexico.

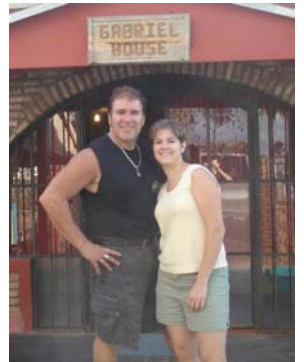
One of our guys flying in to the airport was bumped from his flight and couldn't get in until about 6:00PM.

We checked into a hotel in San Diego for the night and headed across the border in the morning.

We made it across with no problems and headed for Ensenada, MX. Once there we found the children's orphanage called GABERIAL HOUSE.

This house is set up for handicapped kids and there are 27 kids here at this time. We set up the kids that could sit up and with **Heather, Yung, Mary, Shannon, Mary C. and I** the hair started flying. We did all the kids hair and than the staff.

I left them with some product that was donated by **TEC LABS**, a company in my hometown of Albany, Oregon. This product is amazing as it kills Head Lice on the kids.



Shannon...



Yung...





With Nathan and Cory keeping the music lively with their guitars the kids were just having a blast. They are both very gifted musicians and any chance they get to pull out the guitar they do and we are thrilled when they do.



It is truly an amazing situation here. These kids have been dealt a pretty bad hand for their life but yet you look at them, touch them feel them and then when their heart hits your heart you know you just took a piece of their life, amazing!!!

They ask for nothing material and expect nothing material all they want is Love, time spent with them without showing sympathy for them.

I came away from them knowing that for a few minutes in their lives we made a difference for them in their existence.

We came to give to these kids but instead they gave so much more to all of us, thank you...

Once we finished up at the Gabriel House we headed south to Vicente Guerrero, MX. It took us about 2 ½ hours to get there as the road is very narrow without any shoulders. It winds up and over the mountains so it is pretty slow going. We arrive at about 7:30PM in the dark.

We find the place we are staying at called "Welcome Home Mission".

This is an old mission that is now used to house people who come down to this area and help and work with the people. There is a daycare for the children of women who work and have no one to take care of their kids. Before this place started keeping kids these men and women would put food in a small room and padlock the kids in there for up to 12 hours a day while they worked the fields. So it was a real blessing when "Welcome Home" recognized the need for daycare and made it possible for these families to keep their kids here free of charge. All the money to run it is donated and it is unreal how well they do with so little.

We all crashed for the night as we were all exhausted knowing tomorrow would be another challenging day.

Let me tell you a little bit about this area first and why we are here.

This area has a terrible "**women abuse**" problem. With the **drug wars** all around it and the usage as well women are very abused physically.

The beauty school we adopted is run by a wonderful young woman. She saw a way for some of these young women to go and learn a trade so that they may better themselves and their family life by instilling pride in them. With little to no money her school is extremely barren and the young women who attend have little money to pay but she will turn no one away.

Everyone was up and around early and after breakfast they found their way to the beauty school we adopted, it is called "**CANON INSTITUTO**".

Mary and I were already there as I wanted to meet with a plumber that we had arranged to get some material and plumbing in the school for shampoo bowls.

I hooked up with the plumber who I nicknamed "Joe the Plumber". Luckily I have been in Latin America quite a bit in the last several years and know enough Spanish to deal with him.

We had arranged for him to get the one shampoo bowl we brought plumbed in. When we arrived there I saw that they had a shampoo bowl in a corner. It had no water running to it and they would dump water out of a bucket onto a persons head to wash or remove color. The water would drain into a big tub and when the tub gets full they would dump it outside in the dirt street.

The smell from that big tub of chemical water just about made you pass out. That tub was so big that when it was full you could not move it. Well guess what "IT WAS FULL!!!"

After I met all the students I went and started draining that tub one small bucket at a time until it was all out in the street.

Joe the Plumber finally showed up and I let him know that I wanted both sinks plumbed in instead of just one. He said "they only told me one with only one water line".

Well no way was I going to let him plumb in one sink with only cold water so I took him outside and had a little talk with him. When I was done we went inside and I started helping him. Mary came over and asked "What is up with the plumber?"

I let her know that he is going to plumb in 2 shampoo bowls and hook up a hot water tank with a propane tank for gas.

She said "WOW that is awesome, but how much is it going to cost."

I told her "don't worry about it I'm taking care of it."

About then the rest of our group arrived and we started unloading. Theresa (the school owner) sent the students home and we jumped into the school like "EXTREME MAKOVER".



With everyone working together we were like a well oiled machine. We had a van full of garbage so fast and the girls had the brooms going at rapid speed while Joe The Plumber was drilling holes in the exterior walls.

I sent Mary out with our interpreter and the school owner to find us a painter. We decided that we would paint the outside of the building while we were here.

Cory and Nathan are all for it and just want a couple of locals that we can hire to help out.

The girls are busy setting up a great hair color bar and using an old glass and wood display case we cleaned up.





We worked until 5PM and than locked the place up for the night. Theresa is having the students come at 12 noon tomorrow and we plan on hitting it early so we can finish it up and Shannon and Heather will start teaching “Hair color theory” in the afternoon with Mary and Yung helping them out.

Joe the Plumber says he will be done with his part by the end of the day. That is perfect as the girls won’t be applying color until the next morning.

This is a local family walking by and asking for anything we can give them. I told them to come by on Saturday as we are putting on a ‘HAIR CUTTING FEISTA” the whole town. We will be helping the students give free haircuts and will have a MAREA’CHE BAND playing music. We are arranging for a bunch of food to be made by on of the locals to feed the people. This is our way of getting advertising out for the school. We have fliers all over the place and an ad in their weekly paper will come out on Thursday.

I’ll keep you posted.

David Guerin

