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*Sent Through The
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Dear Friends,

In college I learned that the definition of a missionary was "A person who leaves his own home and culture to take the gospel to a different culture." That is exactly what I am doing now in the Rio Grande Valley, known as "The Valley" to the locals. I was able to go down to the Valley to help veteran missionaries Danny and Michelle Jones with Vacation Bible School. A small group from our home church came down to assist us. We had a blast! My responsibilities included organizing VBS, writing the lessons (which Michelle translated into Spanish, as I was having trouble with Croatian coming out instead of Spanish...one of the hazards of knowing multiple languages!), writing, recording, and mixing a short puppet skit for 3 of the days, and coordinating with the group coming from Worth. I am very blessed to have been able to help in these ways. VBS is always my favorite time of year! Iglesia Bautista Betesda (Bethesda Baptist Church) had record attendance with 96 attending one of the days! 6 souls were led to Christ as a result of our efforts, some at church and some at the Kid's Bible Club we held in a community park about 25 minutes from church. We had Kid's Club each morning and VBS each evening. By the end of the week we were all EXHAUSTED! Especially being out in the sweltering heat. If I remember correctly the heat index was at it's highest at 114 degrees.

After VBS I made preparations to return to the Valley by looking for a place to live. Praise the Lord, He provided a nice little place in my price range. So with the help of my parents, I moved down to the Valley. I have been here just under a week, so am getting settled in still. Soon I will be helping with the children's program, as well as training some members in working with children. After I get more settled, I will add more responsibilities. I'm looking forward to working again with Danny and Michelle. Some of you may remember I worked with them in Monterrey, Mexico. We are all excited to be working together once more. I appreciate your prayers as I work with new children and overcome new challenges. Also, please pray for me as I learn this new culture. It is not America culture, and it is not Mexico culture. Some have said that it is a mix of both, but it is the worst of both. God can do GREAT things in any culture, though. We are expecting great things from Him, as we ourselves can do nothing great apart from Him.

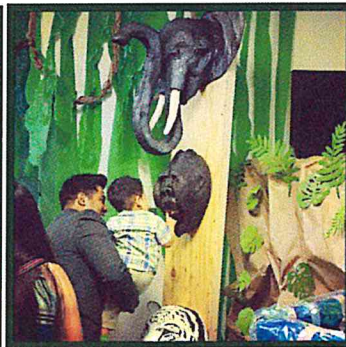
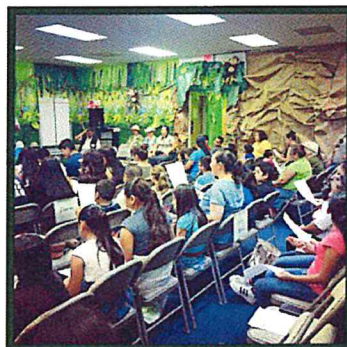
Thank you for your continued prayers. Please also pray that I can get some new churches on board to support me here in the Valley.

I'll leave you with some pictures of VBS...Jungle of Faith, and Kid's Bible Club!



Thank you for your continued prayers and support. In Christ,

Melissa Houston



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