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*Sent Through The
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Dear Friends,

Things have been going well here in the Valley (Rio Grande Valley). We started a choir at Iglesia Bautista Betesda (Bethesda Baptist Church). We sang our first song on Easter Sunday! If you missed my last prayer letter, I am the choir director. We have started to learn how to read music slowly. We also had a "What voice am I?" day to figure out our vocal ranges. Each person sang scales with Michelle playing the piano, and I listening and coaching to figure out who can sing high notes, and who can sing low notes. Our people can sing much higher than they ever expected! They are learning a lot, and quickly! I'm learning still, too! I thank God for this opportunity. Please pray for our choir, that our people are faithful to come, and that we can glorify God. We will sing specials in the services whenever we can learn a new song. I hope to start with one song a month and work up from there as we learn to read music better.

Vacation Bible School is coming up in July! It's my favorite time of year! This year our theme is "Creator Laboratories." I'm looking forward to all of the fun science decorations and crafts we will have. Hopefully, we will temporarily turn the church into a science lab, complete with "hand scanner" at the entrance! (It is just a thin baggie with a colored gel that the kids can put their hand on to "scan in.") More than the fun science, I hope the kids and adults will come away with a few answers to some questions about the "Big Bang" vs. Creation, Dinosaurs (yes, they are real!), and the wonder that is DNA. Pray for open hearts to hear the Word of God and accept the AMAZING gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. We are having another small group from Worth Baptist Church in Fort Worth (my sending church) to help us out again. I very much look forward to their coming. During the days on Tuesday-Friday of VBS week, we will also be doing a "Good News Club" in one of the neighborhoods in McAllen. Please pray with us that we can use a school playground near the church. We want to reach kids who wouldn't normally come to church but might come to the playground (with parent's permission of course). At the Good News Club, they will hear a Bible story, sing songs, learn a Bible verse, and play games. Please also pray for hearts open to hear how much God loves them.

While working on these things, and Sunday School lessons, I have also been working on my website. If you would like to visit it, it is up and running. The website is www.kidsoftheword.com. I am slooowly adding more lessons and Bible review game ideas (some will very soon be available for purchase if you or your Sunday School teachers are interested). I hope to add more teaching resources and ideas soon. Please be patient as it is a work in progress, and things are going to get CRAZY until after VBS is over.

Thank you all for your faithful prayers and support! I could not do what I do without either of them. They also make you a part of this ministry. I'm glad we can share in God's work together! May God richly bless you!

Here are a few pictures of the Choir and kids of Betesda:



In Christ,
Melissa Houston

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