



Casa Sonrisa NEWS

During this season it is common (and rightly so) to reflect on the blessings of the year. For us, there are too many to recount in the space we have available. It is a pleasure to report that the three dozen children of Casa Sonrisa have enjoyed good health during the year.

Also high on the list of blessings is the generosity of congregations and individuals who have contributed to this work. Especially noteworthy is the fact that many of you have supported Casa Sonrisa for years (several for over ten years!).

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to each of you during this special time. Casa Sonrisa receives more financial support during December than any other month. We use these funds throughout the year. Gifts for the children have been provided for several years by the Whitney Church of Christ. Our thanks go out to them and all the rest of you for your continuing prayers and support.



Think About It!



Most of us are familiar with the age-old story told in Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* in which a miserly businessman, Ebenezer Scrooge, experiences a moral rebirth. A particularly poignant character in Dickens's tale is the young boy Tiny Tim who, although poor and ailing, desires to be a vessel for the Lord as he "hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day who made lame beggars walk and blind men see."

Stories like these remind us of what many (like Marley in Dickens's tale) never understand in this life: "Mankind [is] my business. The common welfare [is] my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence [are], all, my business. The dealings of my trade [are] but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!"

Those of you who give of your time and/or money to the church and to honorable causes such as Casa Sonrisa have made mankind your business and are "vessels for honor" for the Master. God bless you, every one!



Judit Hernandez, along with her three sisters and one brother, came to Casa Sonrisa several years ago. Now 14 years old, she is a very good student and a happy, healthy teenager. She attends a prep school where she has a half scholarship based on entrance exams. Casa Sonrisa pays for the remaining half of her tuition. This is merely one example of your charitable dollars at work in the Lord's kingdom.



Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from [dishonor], he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work." II Timothy 2:21