

VERONICA'S STORY



Those of us here at Mexican Missions first came to know Veronica in 1999. The Catholic priest at the local church, realizing that he did not have the resources to effectively help her, suggested she come to Victoria Bible Institute and ask for help from Brother Edgar Stone.

She had no food, no gas to cook with and no money. Having too much to carry and living close to where Mexican Missions was located, we were shocked to see them paying rent to live in a junk yard filled with old buses.

We were able to move them out of the bus into a rent house, assisting them with food, clothing, medical help, propane gas, and various other needs.

Veronica was able to begin attending chapel services, and the children were also able to attend services twice weekly when her husband allowed. Veronica committed her life to Christ and continued to grow in the Lord. She enrolled in the sewing classes, was given a sewing machine, fabric and notions upon graduation so she could sew for herself and the children.

In late 2005 Veronica's husband found work in a Maquilador and was able to purchase a small 2 bedroom house. Things were much better until October of 2006. Her husband began to get involved with alcohol and drugs. As he became more and more involved in them things began to go downhill. He began to squander his earnings, often leaving Veronica and the children to fend for themselves.

It was during this period of time that her husband attempted to kill her during one of his drug stupors. The newspaper stories were very graphic, describing how her husband savagely used a sheet-rock knife to cut her to pieces and then leave her for dead as the three children witnessed the attack. Fortunately he did not physically harm the horrified children, however, they did have to remain huddled together until daylight when they were able to seek help from a neighbor while their mother clung to life.

Once at the hospital, the doctors determined that her female organs and part of her colon were totally destroyed. They were able to perform a colostomy to save her life, but the results would be touch and go over the course of the next month.

The husband was arrested, but since the Public Defender never interviewed Veronica, no attempted murder charges were ever filed against him in the attack. Instead he only received a 5 year sentence for assault.

The children, Yareli 7, Junior 5, and Wendy 2, were then placed with the Child Welfare Department of Mexico. Mexican Missions requested and received authorization to visit the children. We were informed of their needs for clothing, towels, shampoos, snacks and toys, and other necessities. When we arrived they came running to us. They were happy to see our familiar faces

and receive some much needed loving care. Each of them cried as they shared their own stories of the horrible experience they had witnessed.

After three weeks the children were assigned to Casa Hogar Corazon Grande (Big Heart Orphanage), which is owned and operated by friends of the ministry, Robert "Gator" & Deanna Carter. The orphanage is located directly across from MMI's Victoria Bible Institute.

Thanks to the prayers of many people and the care of the doctors, the mighty hand of God showed Himself strong in Veronica's life, but it would still be a long and painful path to recovery and a new life.

Veronica was released from the hospital after two months. Still in shock from trauma, she was not able to return home immediately. MMI was able to provide a safe place for her to stay during her recovery. We contacted her grandmother, who lived 400 hundred miles away in a remote mountain Indian village. With the help of her son she was able to come and care for her granddaughter. This was the first time she had ever left the Indian village. Up to that point she had never seen a city, ridden on a bus or in a vehicle and she had only spoken the Indian dialect language, not in Spanish.

As Veronica continued to improve, MMI moved her into her own home after painting, fixing and adding security bars. Now being a single mother, having to work to support herself, it was difficult for her to attend to the children and work a full time job, so the children continue to stay at Big Heart Orphanage, where they're safe and secure in a loving Christian environment.

It took Veronica one year to completely heal and at that time she was notified that she might qualify to have the colostomy surgically reversed. That reversal surgery was a success and she was able to return to MMI again after a two week stay in the hospital. That recovery took an additional six months to completely heal. Thanks be to God, she never experienced any complications from her previous injuries and the subsequent corrective surgery.

During the time she was recovering, her family was at her side at MMI and had the opportunity to hear and experience Veronica's testimony. They attended events and went to the church services and heard the salvation

message preached. They returned home to their village with a new understanding of who Christ is and His Saving Grace.

Today Veronica is well. The children continue to live at the orphanage and are happy seeing their mother on a regular basis. She had gained employment at a Maquilador after recovery, but due to economical situation in Mexico was one of the many that lost their job. She then started selling door-to-door for the Fuller Brush company to try to make ends meet.

Veronica only has a sixth grade education, which is the highest level available at the mountain village where she is from. We were able to support her as she began cosmetology school in September 2009 in order to gain a skill to enable her to support herself. She graduated in July 2010, passing her cosmetology board exam with a grade of 87, granted to her by a California State Board Certified Instructor. The school Veronica attended is considered as a top school in Reynosa, recognized by the U.S. Board Of Cosmetology. MMI is so proud of how far she has come not only for working hard for her license, but also because of her continuing growth in the Lord.

We praise and thank God for Veronica, and for the many other testimonies that occur when missions work not only focuses on building churches, but upon lifting up the name and the love of Jesus, and meeting the needs of the people. That's what Mexican Missions Incorporated is all about.

