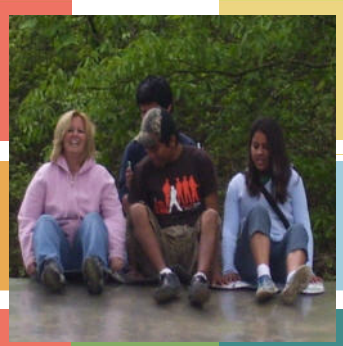


April -May 2007



Enjoying the big slides at one of our state parks.  
Kathy, Checko, and Jazmin.



Jose Pablo on the side with a fractured ankle!

# Couch Times

Sergio Ortiz Ruiz

Sergio, or 'Checko' as we call him is the oldest young man in the house, at 21. He is in his first year, 3rd semester of college. He is studying chemistry. He is our deepest thinker and quieter than most. He has a sweet spirit and contagious smile. He is also 'Memo's' brother (from last month..). Checko would like to say this, "I am very content because Tim and Kathy are with us. I can see that they are obedient to the intentions of God in their lives. I am grateful for the help that they are offering to us, it really is not that easy. I really want to say thank you very much for having the same vision as Tim and Kathy and helping with this ministry. I am very happy to be here. Thank you very much for your help."

Sincerely, Checko

(See we told you he was a deep thinker!)



## One 'Woman's' Muddy Mess; Another Person's Custom Made Swimming Hole!

Before I start this story let me explain a few things about Back 2 Back Latin America. We operate similar to a 'bulls eye' in our ministry here. Our first priority is the youth that we have living on our campus. Our second priority is the group of children's homes that we work with. We then jump to helping the community in which we live. One of the areas we work with is named 'Caderyta'. This is an area that by all of our standards is very subliveable (yes that is my word), yet people actually pay money to live there. The government has relocated some of these people, and they have had help building their houses of cinder block, but others are doing it themselves with anything that they can find to build with. Our relationship with Caderyta is still somewhat new, maybe 1- 1 ½ years, yet you still can physically feel the desperation of these people. I, Kathy, went out there one day with one of my friends here on staff, to help a family in need. It was my first time there without the comfort of a large group from the United States. When I am there with a group, I have specific responsibilities that usually pertain to the group. Without that 'buffer' what a different experience that day was. I have this pair of Birkenstock shoes. I know, they are too expensive, they were a splurge for my birthday 3 years ago.





I wore them that day because I knew we would be walking a lot. It seemed like a good idea until I stepped out of the car! My foot immediately sunk into some really deep mud. It has rained the entire week before here in Monterrey. We had dealt with the onslaught of water, but it never occurred to me what these brave souls were experiencing. My first thought was, “boy did I wear the wrong shoes!”

My friend had a friend staying with her that week, so off the three of us trekked, literally. We quickly gained quite a crowd of kids around us. They were all trying to help, but all I could think of was not falling or losing my shoes! We talked to several people who had flooding issues, or their roof had fallen in due to the rains and all that they owned was wet or ruined. I was immediately hit with how ‘shallow’ my shoe issue was. I just had to walk through the mud. These people had to live in mud. Here I was in my ‘almost’ clean clothes trying not to get dirty in ‘their’ world, when that is really what God is calling me to do: forsake myself to follow Him, and in that serve all that have needs. My selfish heart reared its ugly head that day and I have to say I was ashamed at how comfortable I had become in my heart with the level of my service. Here God was, yet again, calling me to give it all to Him.... Berks and all!

I will have to say that as always, God shined His lovely face on us that day with a group of exuberant kids. They laughed, played, and followed us around. They asked questions by the millions and wanted to touch us, all over! As I began to see their world through their eyes, what kid would not have a grand time in a giant mud pit that had a few swimming holes as bonuses! The boys even demonstrated what fun a ‘nature-made’ swimming hole could be. I left Caderyta that day with an entirely new perspective of man and of God. So from now on, hopefully, I won’t be afraid to literally ‘get my feet muddy!’



We have experienced our first broken ankle, ever!!! We never went through this with our kids, but yes, we did get that grand experience this month with Jose Pablo. He jumped off the front porch of one of the houses and broke his ankle. We did the whole clinic and then ER thing. He now has a boot cast for at least 3 weeks. It is a definite learning experience doing this in another language and another culture. Please pray for his quick healing. His picture is on the front page.

We want to thank all of you for your support. We could not do what we do without it. Donations can be made to Back 2 Back Ministries, P. O. Box 70, Mason OH 45040  
And check out their web page at [back2backministries.org](http://back2backministries.org).