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Children from the Amazing Grace Orphanage pose with a mission group that had come to serve the children in July 2012. The orphanage is based near Mexico City. This July, members from the Fellowship Baptist Church will be going down to Mexico City for a mission trip to serve these children by providing them with food, school supplies and God's love. Courtesy photo

By VICTORIA CALDERON

- Leader & Times

Mexico, while home to great tourist spots and beautiful beaches, is also home to millions of underprivileged people. In the entire country, 47 percent of the population lives under the poverty line, and 24 million of those people are children. Along with those staggering statistics, 1.9 million children in Mexico City alone live on the streets. And, worst of all, 2 million children are left with no parents.

Although conditions are terrible for children living in Mexico, there are people trying to make a difference and improve the lives of these children.

The Amazing Grace Children's Home is an orphanage based in a small town outside of Mexico City. The home was founded in 1999 by Dr. Leonardo and Esperanza Rivas, inside a place originally intended to be a medical clinic. Seeing the invisible children on the streets of Mexico City changed that plan, and the clinic has been home to children in need since.

The home typically has 50 to 60 children at a time, but has the capacity for more.

Every other year, Liberal's Fellowship Baptist Church sends a group on a mission trip to the orphanage. Initially, the mission is to sate the children's physical needs, like food. The end goal, however, is to help the children spiritually.

Maria Lara, one of the girls from the FBC youth group attending the mission trip, spoke about their motivation and aspirations for the mission.

"What we're going to be doing over there is not only feeding them physically, but also feeding them spiritually, like from the Gospel, getting close to them in a Godly manner, having those conversations, and possibly even saving them," Lara said of the underprivileged children they will be helping.

The mission group will also bring the children suitcases filled with school supplies, from glue to scissors to notebook paper.

Altogether, 15 representatives from FBC will be going to Mexico: 10 teenagers and five adults. Their trip will be July 7-16.

As far as the children go, the missionaries must be careful with how they serve the children spiritually.

“They’re just little kids. They lost their home, they lost their parents. We just have to be very fragile and get down to their level,” Lara said. “It’s just Lord willing, whoever wants to be saved, will be saved.”

The kids aren’t the only ones who will, hopefully, gain something from the experience. Despite the dangers of traveling to Mexico City, Lara hopes to gain spirituality that she can apply to her own life.

“I don’t want to just go through the motions. I want to come back with a heart changed,” Lara said. “Hopefully, it’ll give me that grace where I just want to help out others even more.”

Even the threat of danger isn’t too intimidating to Lara and the mission group.

“I know God will protect us. We’re going for a good cause,” she said.

If you want to find out more about the Amazing Grace orphanage, visit and like their Facebook page, “Amazing Grace Children’s Home.”

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