

MMK VBS 2011

LESSON TWO

MEXICO

Welcome back to Vacation Bible School. Can anyone tell me what country we are learning about this week? *That's right Mexico. (Show the map of Mexico)*

What will our offerings this week go toward? *Yes, El Retiro, the children's home.*

Let's spend a little bit of time learning about El Retiro Juvenil. (ell-ray-tee-row-hoo-vay-neel). This is the proper name for the children's home and in Spanish, it means "The Children's Retreat". We often shorten the name to just "El Retiro". **(Show picture of Mae Royer)** El Retiro was started by a missionary nurse named Mae Royer in 1960. Does anyone know how long ago that was? *51 years ago, that's right.* She started this children's home because she saw a need to take care of children who did not have any parents. We call them orphans. The children who come to El Retiro today are not necessarily orphans. They usually have at least one parent, but that parent might not be able to care for the child because they might not have a job. Sometimes the government takes children from their homes and sends them to El Retiro because the parents are not taking very good care of their children.

When the children come to El Retiro they will have a bed of their own, maybe a bunk bed or a single bed. If you were there would you like the top bunk or the bottom bunk? **(Show pictures of the dorm rooms.)** The dorms are not fancy, but the beds are clean and it is a safe place to live. They get to go to school and church and they have people who care for them. **(Show picture of the staff.)** The children also get to go to school and to the dentist and doctor when they are sick. At El Retiro the children learn that Jesus loves and cares for them. When there are holiday breaks at school the children then leave El Retiro and go back to their relatives for that time. Right now there are about 23 children living at El Retiro. **(Show picture of the children.)** They get good meals and a good home, but the children also have chores to do. What kind of chores do you think they have to do? *(make their beds, sweep the floor, put things away, home work from school, helping with meals, etc...)*

We will learn more about the directors of El Retiro. Remember to bring in your offerings which will help the children at El Retiro Juvenil.

Close in prayer for the children at El Retiro.



Mae Royer, founder of El Retiro





**EL RETIRO STAFF: ELBA JOSE, MARIA DOMINGUEZ,
ICELA ARRIAGA, CRISTINA ARRIAGA (prepa school)**

