

MMK VBS 2011

LESSON THREE

MEXICO

What country are we studying this week? *Mexico, that is right.*

What are we raising the money for? *The roof on the dining hall at El Retiro.*

What is El Retiro? *Yes, a children's home. Wow, you guys are learning a lot already.*

Today we have a special guest with us – Martha Reyes, the co-director of El Retiro, is visiting with us. **(Have a lady that is willing to pretend to be Martha. She can either tell her story or you as the leader can interview her. Both versions are included)**

Leader: Let's welcome Martha to our Vacation Bible School. Martha, thanks for coming today. Would you tell us your story of how you came to be at El Retiro?

Martha: Sure. I must say Rev. Carlos would love to be here with you but he must take care of the children while I am here visiting. We met at a Bible college in Texas and have been married for 21 years. I was born in Monterrey, Mexico and asked Jesus to be my Savior at age 18. Carlos is from the country of Honduras. His father was a pastor there in Honduras. We have two sons. David, is 20 years old. Is there anyone here is who is 20? (Let children respond.) Our son, Isaac, is 14 and we have a daughter, Vady, who is 9. I think there might be some children here who would be about 9 years old.

We were the pastors at a church in Texas for 8 years and worked at planting churches in Mexico. We moved to Mexico, and lived in the town of Reynosa (ray-know-sah) for 7 years where we started some children's clubs. Some of the children that came to our club were from a children's home. They came to the club very hungry because they did not have enough food for breakfast. So we would make them some lunch even though we didn't have much to give them. God always provided for us.

A few years ago, the leaders of the EC church asked us to come to Montemorelos to work at El Retiro, so we could care for the children that are there. I always make sure they get up at 6:30 every morning so they can get their breakfast and get ready for school. The children are driven to school by Pastor Carlos and another worker. After school I help them with homework and make sure they do their chores. We play games with them. Then they must go to bed by 9:30 pm. We make sure they go to the doctor when they get sick. We tell them about Jesus and teach them to pray. Sometimes we have to discipline the children when they are naughty. Every day is a little different. I also help with the cooking and have prayer with the staff members that help care for the children. Rev. Carlos is also a pastor of an EC Church close to El Retiro where we take the children on Sunday to church. We try to show the children how much Jesus loves them and that we love them as well.

Thank you so much for giving your offerings to help fix the roof of the dining hall at El Retiro. The children will appreciate having a dry place to eat their meals. Thanks for letting me come visit your Vacation Bible School and for praying for the children of El Retiro.

Leader: Thank you Martha for telling us about yourself and Pastor Carlos.

Close in prayer for Rev. Carlos and Martha and the children

Interview Format:

Leader: Hello Martha. Welcome to _____EC Church and our Vacation Bible School
What is your husband's name?

Martha: Rev. Carlos and we have been married for 21 years.

Leader: Where did you meet and do you have any children?

Martha: We met at a Bible College in Texas and we have 3 children, David 20, Isaac 14 and Vady, who is 9.

Leader: Have you always lived in Mexico?

Martha: I was born in Monterrey, Mexico, but Carlos was born in Honduras. His father was a pastor there. I asked Jesus to be my Savior when I was 18 through the witness of my mother.

Leader: What did you and Carlos do after you went to Bible College?

Martha: We pastored a church for 8 years in Texas. Then we moved to Reynosa, Mexico where we helped to plant churches and led children's clubs for 7 years. Several years ago we were asked to move to Montemorelos to be the directors of "El Retiro" children's home.

Leader: What do you do with the children at El Retiro?

Martha: We get them up in the morning at 6:30 am to eat breakfast and get ready for school. We drive them to school, help them with their homework, teach them about Jesus, make sure they do their chores, and take them to the doctor when they are sick. Sometimes we have to discipline them when they are naughty. Every day is somewhat different. Rev. Carlos not only helps out at El Retiro but he is also the pastor of one of the EC churches close by. This is where we take the children to church on Sundays. We try to show the children how much Jesus loves them and that we love them, too.

Thank you so much for having me here today and for giving your offerings so that the dining hall roof can be repaired. Thanks for praying for the children of El Retiro.

Leader: Thank you for coming and telling us about El Retiro. Let's close in prayer.



Rev. Carlos Reyes



Martha Reyes