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LIFE IS FULL OF CHOICES

# THE EMRA EXPRESS

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## Here, There & Everywhere

When I am speaking in Churches or to groups of parents, I am often asked if I think Los Angeles is the one of the worst places in the United States to raise kids.

I look at two realities. First is the proliferation of gangs, with the accompanying crime, violence, and the inability of the police to provide basic protection to the community. Then I look at the failure of the education system that has become the accepted norm throughout much of Los Angeles.

Just looking at those two factors, I usually agree with the questioner - that Los Angeles is probably one of the worst places in the United States to try and raise kids.

That is until last week.

I was on the phone talking with Dieta. For two weekends last November, I lived with this retired teacher and her husband, while I trained members of her Church how to start and run a S.A.Y. Yes! After School Program for "at risk kids."

One of her kids, last week said to her, "I love it here. I wish I could live here. This is the very best place I have ever been."

From Dieta, I found out that in their process of contacting the local grade school, to inform them of the opening of this After School Program, the Principle told her that out of the 300 kids going to that school, in the shadow of the State Capital Building, over 100 kids were failing in at least one subject.

This is grade school we're talking about - not high school - not even junior high. It is hard to believe that in this grade school one third of the students are starting out by being left behind. And this is in North Dakota!!!

Yes! Los Angeles is not a good place to raise kids. The problems are huge here in LA, but as you know, these problems are not limited to Los Angeles. So even though we live and work with Churches here, Sheryl and I are also working with Churches in Nevada, Arizona, Oregon and now North Dakota.

Thank you so much for making our ministry possible.



John,  
for John and Sheryl

### *Answered Prayer*

*God is changing lives through the 5000 Easter Bags that were distributed last month. Thank you for praying! Stay tuned for the stories.*

### *Prayer Request*

*May 28 and 29 Sheryl will be teaching a seminar entitled Choosing Gods Healing Presence at a church here in Los Angeles.*

*Pray for John and Sally Childress as they raise support in order to return to Germany, this time, as part of Life Is Full Of Choices.*

*Pray for Maria Lim. This missionary to China went through S.A.Y. Yes! Training last month. She is gaining practical experience in using Life Is Full Of Choices at some local S.A.Y. Yes! Centers and is experiencing "culture shock."*

*Please start praying now for safe travel and our schedule in the Northwest later this summer.*