

CHANGED BY LOVE

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December 2013

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CHANGED BY LOVE

GUILLERMO (BILL) & BEATRIZ LIPMAN

GREETINGS FROM PIMENTEL

The opportunities are so exciting for us in Pimentel, and none of it would be possible without your faithfulness. We want to say "Thank you" for the support that you give to this ministry.

Recently, a young man was sick with pains in his lower abdomen. The family took him to the local witch doctor who rubbed a guinea pig over his body. The guinea pig was fine after this "test" so the witch doctor said there was nothing wrong and the boy should just take some pain killers.

After some encouragement, I was able to get the family to take the boy to the hospital. He had to have his appendix removed immediately! The doctor considered it an emergency. Once again, the local superstitions have failed a family and they have relied on our help to get relief. We pray that as these kinds of things continue that more people will turn from their past superstitious religions and turn to the true God.



WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT CHANGED BY LOVE

BY DAVE ZARRO



Recently I had the opportunity to spend seven weeks with Guillermo in Pimentel. My wife, Linda, came after I was there a few weeks and was with me for the last four weeks of the visit. We both came away from the experience with a better understanding of the joys and the challenges of Changed By Love.

Let's start with the feeding program. Guillermo and Beatriz give breakfast to anywhere from 60 to 80 kids each weekday morning. It is a sacrifice for them because not only are they up early every morning, they have to buy all of the food from money donated to Changed By Love. They may not want me to tell you this, but sometimes it means that their own family does not have enough. I was there one morning (I'm not sure if I was helping or getting in the way!) when a boy about 5 years old came early. After giving us all hugs, he just stood back and watched. Guillermo took out a roll, sliced it, and spread butter and jelly. He quietly handed it to the boy who smiled a very big smile and proceeded to devour his treat!

It is hard for us to realize, but most of these kids only get one meal a day besides the breakfast at the comedor. And they can't always count on that other meal. This is an important part of the ministry of Changed By Love in the community.

You might ask why they would spend most of the money that is received through donations on breakfast. How does that get these kids into heaven? Isn't that the ultimate goal?

These same kids who come to breakfast come back on Saturday for what they call Happy Hour. It's like Sunday School, but on Saturday morning. They hear the Gospel and have opportunity to receive Christ. These same kids come back after school just to hang out, do their homework, play, but they really come just to be loved. Loving families are not the norm in Pimentel. Loving fathers are even harder to find.



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I have completely lost track of how many nights my sleep was interrupted until 2 am, 3 am, even 4 am because the music of a nearby party was so loud. Drunken parties are the normal activity in this little fishing village. The kids are even welcome to participate. No, that's not saying it correctly. The kids are EXPECTED to participate. Grandmothers teach their grandkids how to get drunk!

The comedor becomes a sanctuary for these kids. It's a safe haven where they can be loved, and just be kids. Almost every afternoon there were knocks on our door. The kids loved to come to our apartment to play games with Linda. Sometimes, if we were both busy the kids would still come and just sit on the floor of our living room and play games--

just hanging out with us. They crave the love and attention that are shown by the evangelical Christians at Changed By Love.

The Fishermen

For some reason, probably keeping up a macho image, the men and fathers are the hardest to reach. One father in particular was a focus of our prayers and attention. His son is in trouble and my wife and I are helping him financially during this time. We have talked to him many times about receiving Christ, but he always says he is not ready yet. On our last Sunday there, a team from Oklahoma was visiting. Pastor Kenny of that church spoke and gave an altar call at the end of the service. This big, strong fisherman meekly went forward to receive Christ. He is not the kind to do that just to make someone else happy. Since we have left, Guillermo tells me he is becoming more involved in things and is showing a desire to learn more about the Christian walk. Praise God for this! As more men come to be part of the church, I believe we will see a big change in the church.



SO WHAT CAN YOU DO?



There is so much that I want to say, but cannot take the space in a newsletter. I want to share briefly what I have learned about the responsibility that each of us has. Jesus was very clear when He said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matthew 6: 19-21.

You and I can afford to help. Our attitude needs to be that when we see a need, we don't say, "Oh, that's terrible. I hope things get better." We need to respond by looking at ourselves and determining what we can do to help the situation. Not everyone can go to the mission field. But everyone can spare \$20, or \$40, or more each month. Each situation is different, but the need is real, and there are real people whose lives are being affected by our help.

Many of you are already helping regularly, so take this as an encouragement to remain faithful. Be assured that your faithfulness is making a real difference to real people. I have met them. I have heard their thankfulness, and I have seen how it makes a difference.

If you are not a regular part of the support of Changed By Love, please consider a gift of \$20 each month. We are praying right now for 50 more families who will support the ministry in this way.

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