

December 2007 Newsletter

Merry Christmas everyone! Let me start off this newsletter by apologizing for its lateness. It has been weeks of non-stop activity.

Our oldest son Daniel has arrived for a 5 month stay with us. The Miller clan is now complete! We put him to work immediately putting up the tongue and groove ceiling in the kitchen of the children's home. Osvaldo (houseparent) has not been able to finish this last room of the home by himself so he appreciated the help. Camp season has started so there was a lot of work to do to get things in order. Daniel has laid bricks, cleaned the pool, cut grass and been chauffer. We all appreciate the extra hands.

This month has been a month of ministry in unexpected ways. The first Sunday of November, Dan preached at the Vineyard church. He has preached there several times but his friend, the pastor had to go out of town and asked him to take the Sunday morning service. He was working on his sermon and was feeling really good about what God wanted him to say when we received a powerful forward from a friend that was exactly what Dan had written, even the scripture reference. It was instant verification to him. The Lord's presence was very strong during the service. The sermon was from John 9 about "What do you know for sure?" Dan talked about: In your worst moment what do you know? Do you know that God loves you, that you are His child, that He will never leave you.....? That same night one of the ladies from the congregation found out that her teenage son was killed in a car accident. She told the pastor the following day that the sermon was for her, to prepare her because that was her worst moment. God is good...all the time. All the time...God is good! That lady has been leaning upon God's word every day.

Dan was approached to be the Director for a Unicef/Ministry of Children and Adolescence project in Carapegua (the town where the camp and children's home are). He didn't particularly want to do it but a worker from the Peace Corps from Carapegua and a woman at the Ministry recommended him. Then Unicef told him that it had to be a non-government organization and that if he didn't do it they were not going to do it in our town because they didn't know anyone else. The program is to teach 50 teens about sexual education, Aids, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, human rights, smart decisions and then these 50 are to teach 100 others. This program was written by the Overseer of The Church of God. It is not worded in a "Christian" way but stresses abstinence. Carapegua was chosen as a result of the high percentage of HIV/AIDS and the high percentage of teen pregnancies among other reasons. Even in this project, God worked in ways that we didn't expect. Dan was in the Ministry of Children and Adolescence office for a meeting. On his way out, a young employee stopped him and asked if he was a pastor. She ended up telling him her life story and crying right there in the lobby. It was a perfect opportunity to tell her about the love of God. The people from the Ministry of Children's affairs asked for a meeting the night before the 5 day training (at our camp). They wanted to know the Christian stand point and to ask why we stressed abstinence. The following day, I invited Pastor Antonio, who wrote the program, to come and teach the first session.

One of the teachers that Dan pulled into the program is a good friend from Carapegua. Adolfo attends services with us at the camp Sunday mornings. Adolfo has been going into any school that would let him and teaching this material for years. Now he is getting paid to fulfill his heart's passion and has an open door everywhere in our area.

Saul, our camp evangelist, was around during the 5 days making contacts with the youth. He has about 6 youth that he will be visiting in their homes. Our 2 sons were a highlight during the

training camp amongst the girls. Saul used this opportunity to invite some of their admirers to our church youth retreat in January to see the boys again. He had about 12 say they would come. The Minister of Children and Adolescence came to Carapegua for the official opening of this program to all area schools. Afterwards we brought her out to see our children's home. She was very complimentary of everything and said she could see the organization and harmony in our home.

We have requested prayer in past newsletters for Monica from our home. Thanks to the Ministry of Children and Adolescence who paid for the needle required for her kidney biopsy and then paid for the tests, we now have the results. According to the tests she has a kidney disease called Glomerulonephritis. It can go one of two ways. It will either go away on its own or her kidneys could completely fail and she would need dialysis and a kidney transplant. Ever since her first time in the hospital when her kidneys were not functioning properly and her blood pressure was too high she has been off salt. Monica, according to the doctor can never have salt again. The doctor gave her special permission to have some salt on her food at Christmas and New Years. She is very excited about that! God has used all of this illness and being the center of attention to bring about very positive changes in Monica. Even her school teacher has commented on that. Please remember to pray for her health.

We are very fortunate to have Stephen, who was with us for 5 months last year back at the camp again. He is back in Paraguay with no return date planned for the USA. He is an independent and willing worker. We are very thankful to have him back. Of course we put him to work immediately also. We are now in summer vacation here so Kyle is off school. He finished with 98% and brought home some courses for next year to do over the summer.

I have, in a good way, been replaced as Sunday school teacher. Adolfo's wife, Silvia, filled in for me when we could not be at the camp and has done it ever since. She really enjoys teaching the children. Kyle is still helping with the kids.

I am very happy to have all my Miller men under one roof again! It was my Christmas wish to have Daniel here for Christmas, so to have him for 5 months is an extra blessing. God Bless you all in this busy Christmas season and always remember that HE is the reason for the season!

Blessings,
The (whole) Miller family