



HOGARJUCUM

YWAM Panama December 4, 2008



Why We Do What We Do...

Our vision for the home is to equip the indigenous youth of Panama through Christian education and discipleship enabling them to bring positive and lasting change to their communities and the world.

That has been our heart since the beginning when we first opened the school in March of 2003. Education was and is important but it is not the heart of the Hogar ministry. It's heart is for each of the students to come to know Jesus Christ in a real and personal way and then multiply that in their communities and the world.

As you've probably guessed this takes time and effort. While the students are here we create the model for them to come to that place in their lives, praying that they will naturally come to that decision in their own time and understanding. We have never wanted to

force their conversion, knowing that it would not come from the heart and therefore wouldn't bring lasting transformation to their lives nor communities. So when one of our students asks Jesus to be their Lord and Saviour it is truly a special time.

This week we have witnessed great revival amongst the students in our home. It all started on Wednesday morning during our regular worship time when John Henry our worship leader felt like he should reemphasize everyone's need to know Jesus personally. Prior to that Debbie Tracy had received a word sensing that some people in the room were grappling with fear. Jesus is the answer, and that is what was shared. The kids were encouraged to talk with some of the staff at their own disclosure.

Worship ended and the staff and students went on with their usual

activities. Later on Vanessa, one of our Embera students who has been with us for three years, asked if she could meet with Debbie about something personal. In their office she shared that for a long time she has struggled with fear and that she wanted to deepen her relationship with God. In essence she expressed her desire to recommit her life to Jesus and make Him Lord! So she did, and our staff celebrated with her.

Well if that wasn't good enough, Celsiro, one of our Embera boys, came to the office and asked to meet privately with Rich and Debbie. He genuinely conveyed his desire to ask Jesus into his heart for the first time! When doing the sinners prayer, Rich encouraged him to pray in his own words. He did, and with heartfelt words he dedicated his life to Jesus!

Following Celsiro's conversion, Rich encouraged him to share what had just happened to at least 2 other people. Celsiro nodded and did share. In fact Vanessa had been sharing with some of the newer students as well. Questions were bubbling in the kids minds and a desire began to spark.

The following morning, today, David Tracy led the students and staff in an intercession time with a focus on suffering throughout the world. They watched a video about Garbage City, a slum in the outskirts of Cairo where the Egyptian Christians are forced to live and work in the garbage. They have no other option but this, lest they be persecuted and even killed. The staff expressed to the students how blessed they all were to live in a country where there is freedom to accept Christ without fear of retribution. "Obviously serving Jesus must be important if people are willing to die for it," expressed Rich.

So the students and staff divided into small groups and began to pray for the suffering world. The kids in David's group were silent when asked to share about what they had felt lead to pray for during the time of waiting on God. In turn he asked them how it is that he could hear from God but they

couldn't. They didn't know the answer. So he went on to explain how when we don't have Jesus in our hearts there is a division, called sin. When they repent of their sins and ask Jesus to wash them clean, Jesus creates a bridge for them to have a relationship with God. This is all stuff that the kids know, and have been told all along, but it seemed to be finally registering in their minds.

"Do you want that relationship?" Questioned David. Noemi and Karina, two of the students, were quick to nod their heads in agreement. Shortly after that, Evaldina raised her hand shyly. Then two other girls did as well. David lead these five girls in the salvation prayer and then encouraged them to pray in their own words also.

Noemi prayed: "Jesus come into my life and change my mind. I want to think like you." She spoke these words as tears swelled in her eyes and then she leaned on Maria one of our staff and contemplated what she had just done.

At the end of the prayer time David shared with the rest of the staff and students what had just happened. There was a time of rejoicing and encouragement. Now many of the students have expressed interest in getting baptized. Praise God!



Celsiro



Yariani

Vanessa