

Niños de Cristo (Christ's Kids)

The Crumbleys in Mexico

06-26-07

The Lord knows Where the Bike Is by Cam and Carrie, written down by Tony

Philippians 4:6, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God"

James 2:22, "You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did."

Matthew 15:28, "Then Jesus answered, 'Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.' And her daughter was healed from that very hour."

Isn't it funny how the simplest of truths in God's word seem to get overlooked and lost in our daily lives? Just a few months ago my two grown kids, Cam and Carrie, reminded me of a valuable truth in God's word, actually more than one truth. Here's what happened.

Cam had his bike stolen at work in broad daylight in a somewhat nice neighborhood a few months back. As he relayed the story over the phone one afternoon to Kelley, Carrie shouted out, "God will find it for him. I lost a ring and I asked God to help me find it and He did." Kelley and I both laughed. I was thinking, "What childish faith this girl has?" Cam responded over the phone to his mom and said he had already prayed and he knew the bike would soon be back. I chuckled again, thinking God doesn't care so much about a bike.

Cam began searching for his stolen bike and one afternoon as he and a friend drove through the same neighborhood, there it was! It was laying in a front yard, spray painted black with some damage. Cam got out of the truck, paced over to his bike to retrieve it, and then 2 guys came around from the backyard where about 6 guys were hanging out. They looked at him, he looked at them, scooped up his bike and headed out! Those two guys said nothing. What could they say, "Hey, leave that bike there! We stole it fair and square!" or "Hey, put that bike down or we will call the police!" They said nothing, nor did nothing.

When Carrie found out the bike was back in Cam's possession, she shouted, "Amen, brother!" I don't know if she yelled 'brother' because she has lots of soul, having been born in Atlanta, or what, but those two grown kids with child-like faith taught their 44 year old dad several faith lessons. Prayer works when we work at prayer. God cares about us so much He even finds our stuff for us when we ask. Simple faith works. Faith works best with feet on it (or when we act).

So how's your faith today? What or who do you believe in, yourself, your bank account, your abilities or knowledge, or almighty God?

Juanito preparing the site for cement to be poured



Jared with a 500 piece puzzle (for a craft frame)



Schools Out!

This past Friday we waved goodbye, gave and received lots of hugs and kisses as we wrapped up preschool for the summer. It was a bittersweet day. We have a few children who will not be back in the fall. They will be moving onto Kindergarten in the public school. We know this, though, they will be better prepared and ready to learn and grow because of their time with us, but our hearts are sad they are gone. We hope and pray they will be children who listen to God and follow Him closely as they go on their way. We will continue to pray for them and ask you to do the same. Some of the conditions and lack of supplies and at times teachers make education here not so effective. Many parents do not think education is important or vital for a child's life.

As these leave God knew how to lift our spirits, because this past Wednesday the Lord sent two mothers Erika and Dulce with their young sons for a visit. They had heard of us and want to bring their boys in August when we began. As Abdiel and Juan their sons sat down to breakfast and played with the other kids it seemed they had been there for weeks. They were at ease, at home, comfortable in their surroundings. Praise God for small blessings and for great teachers like Kristina, Carolina, and Brenda. Please pray for them and especially for Brenda whose baby is due in July. Another student?

Lots to Do...

At the time of this letter we are constructing new classrooms for literacy and tutoring help with neighborhood kids, two storage rooms, one for tools and work materials, the other for clothing and shoes for families, and another room for God to use as He wishes. (No plans for it yet.) We will begin work on a sidewalk and do stucco work on the wall to beautify our property. By God's grace and in faith we are praying where God will send John Latimer and us next to do other Pastors' conferences in Mexico. We have much more on our list of to do's and appreciate your prayers and support always!

Great Groups Part 1

What exactly does it take to make for a great mission trip experience? By working with Christ in Youth (CIY) we learned a lot about the powerful impact a mission trip can make on a group, their family and churches back home, and a missionary's family.

Number 1 – Purposefully plan and pray to lift up the missionary – When groups plot out their purpose for a mission trip somewhere in that process this question needs to be asked. How can we encourage and aid the missionary, their family and workers? Too many groups go about planning and doing mission trips with very self-centered goals and purposes. How can our group grow through this? How can this benefit our members? In other words, 'What do we get out of this?' American culture and good old me first mentality sneaks into the picture.

I have heard more stories of mission groups causing discouragement and stress on missionaries, than the reverse. One group went to inner city Washington D.C., prepped and scraped and taped for a huge painting job. The day before the painting was to be done, a phone call came to a leader in the group, and they had somehow gotten passes for the youth to visit the White House! Their plan was to get up early, enjoy this incredible, chance of a lifetime tour, and then head to the mission to paint. They never made it back. They never finished the job. This family was broken to the point of tears, because their entire home and ministry offices were left in a mess.

A similar experience happened in Mexico the first year we were here. A group planned to paint the pastor's home, but got sidetracked by fun some other place and never did paint the home. The pastor and his wife were discouraged greatly. Praise God that in both these situations a group came the following week. And God used a CIY group in DC and our home church Southern Hills to finish these jobs and lift up some downtrodden spirits.

My point is this. If you plan to lead a mission group, plan with a proper purpose and with tons of prayer. Pray for the missionary and his family. Ask God what you can do to encourage and help him. Constantly ask the missionary or pastor on the trip, "What can we do to help you? How can we help you? What do you need us to do? How can we pray for you?" Make sure what you are doing and how you are doing it is benefiting the missionary and his family. If not, stop, pray and ask God to direct you.

If you go and your group has a good experience, comes home and feels better about themselves and what they did and saw, it means nothing if you leave a job unfinished and a missionary or pastor discouraged. In fact, it would have been better for you to have stayed at home. However, if you take a mission group on a trip and accomplish a needed task, encourage, and strengthen a missionary and the local church, you have been successful and God is honored and His Kingdom has been advanced. Thanks to the Lord for groups who go, serve, love, and spur one another on towards love and good deeds!

Praises!

- God continues to bless us with new children in the preschool and lessons on faith
- Upcoming time in Georgia and Guatemala

Prayer Needs

- Cam and Melissa as they prepare for their wedding and new life in Christ.
- Carrie's plans for Africa or...who knows?
- To be led by the Holy Spirit in all that we do

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