

Helping Is Not Always Easy

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves - Romans 15:1

Sometimes we run across those who need help, but do not welcome help. Francisco was such a person – he lives in a small village with his wife and 2 children. We were brought to his house by another person because Francisco had been sick for 6 months. What we found was an emaciated 27 year old man who had stopped eating and could barely move. He told us that he needed medicine but could not afford it. I asked him for the prescription but he said that he got sick and tired of looking at the paper and not being able to buy the medicine and so he through it in the trash. I gave him my business card and told him to call me when he had the prescription and we would help him. On our next visit to Chichigua we went to check on Francisco since he had not yet called. When we saw him this time he looked like he was just days away from death and could barely speak. We were shocked when it took 1 hour to convince him to let us take him to the hospital! His friend carried him to our truck and we took him to the hospital. The people in his village were saying “ Francisco will not be back, he will die in the hospital”. We went every day for 1 week to the hospital to visit, pray, and bring him food. We brought him a Bible and talked to him about his life and about God’s word. After a few days of intravenous antibiotics he started to show improvement only to find out he has anemia and needed 2 pints of



blood. To our surprise there was no blood in the blood bank of the hospital so we had to find and pay a couple of men to come and donate the blood for him. Once Francisco received the blood he needed, he began to gain some strength and after over 2 weeks of being in the hospital he was sent home. After returning home he still needed medicine and food to regain his strength in hopes of returning back to work. He did not want the help we offered originally because of his pride. We know that the medical treatment and the food helped in his recovery, but we firmly believe it was the love of Christ that we showed him that healed him, even when he was being prideful, stubborn, and ungrateful. There were times that we wanted to walk away from continuing to help Francisco, but we knew that God wanted us to be a witness to him

of His love, despite his attitude. **The Bible says in Matthew 25:40 “ whatever you did for the least of these, you did it unto me”**. Francisco continues to improve, and he hopes to return to work soon. We pray that our involvement in his and his family’s lives has been a testimony for him to share with those around him about God’s great love.

Forgiveness

October brought the last of our Mission Direct teams for this year and we were blessed to have worked and ministered with them. We are now back to a somewhat normal schedule of doing ministry without the help of the teams. We are finding out that the ministry we are doing requires a lot of forgiveness. We have found that in order to minister to people there is a need to get involved in their lives and this means that many times we have to be vulnerable and trusting opening us up to being disappointed and sometimes hurt. Unfortunately many people lie and cheat us here in the Dominican Republic, some do it because we are foreigners and some do it because they are desperate and think they have no other choice. Whatever the reasons are we are finding that we need God’s spirit in order to not be

offended and discouraged. **In the book of Matthew 6:14,15 it says “ For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses”**. This verse is a wonderful reminder that we are forgiven, and that we are also required to forgive others. The Bible also tells us that love keeps no record of wrongs. God’s love for us is perfect and He forgives us, But only if we forgive others. Let’s face it, forgiving someone when we feel they have wronged us is not always easy but it sets us free. We are living this principle every day and we hope and pray that you are also, let’s be free!

A House For Lucrecia

When we were looking for a place to live while serving here in the Dominican Republic, we did not know that God would give us a house that included a housekeeper in the rent. This was awkward for us because we have never had a housekeeper before but her help 3 days a week allows us to be out in the villages more. When we moved in we began to get to know this woman named Lucrecia who is very honest, hard working, and always on time which is something that is hard to find here in the Dominican Republic. One day we wanted to go to Lucrecia's house to see where she lived, but we were not prepared for what we saw. When we got to her house we saw a shack, 10ft x 10ft x 6ft high made of cut down trees and tin. (Pictured upper right) There was no bathroom, no water, and no electricity. She had one bed for her and her 2 teenage daughters to sleep in and very little space left to actually live in. We thought that since she had a job that she would have a better place to live, but she only makes \$180 dollars per month to support her and her 2 daughters. We started to pray and ask God to help and to bless Lucrecia. When we were in the U.S. in May we told some people about Lucrecia, and how we would like to build her a house. She had already purchased some blocks and had a foundation started on her own and she owned the land she lived on. God answers prayer and when we returned to the DR, we received an e-mail from Sarah Galbreath that she and her husband Jim wanted to help Lucrecia build a house! She now has a 2 bedroom/1 bath house made out of block with a tin roof. (pictured bottom right) Lucrecia and her 2 daughters are very happy and feel blessed. Thank you, Jim and Sarah Galbreath for your generosity and helping a deserving family.



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