

Paraguay Missions Newsletter

The Miller Family



Top Left – Mercedes with her mom, 2 sisters and Pati's 2 girls

Top Right – The family reunion at the 15th party

Bottom Left – The New Children's Home

JULY 2016

As most of you know Dan is in North America right now. I have been jealous (but enjoying) seeing pictures of him with our grandbabies, family and friends. His presence has been greatly missed in the Home. Even the kids who don't say too much about their feelings are complaining about missing Uncle Dan.

As every parent reading this knows that parenting isn't for wimps and especially parenting other peoples' children. Thankfully the good times out way the bad by far. The day after Dan left the country, a Monday, one of my teen boys had a melt down and broke a metal door. Thankfully the man wielding a job for Dan fixed it the following day. There were several other normal issues with the kids during the week so Kyle called a family meeting to talk to the kids.

The weekend passed by really well. Alejandra did the Sunday morning service and she talked about patience. She said that obviously Jesus is our perfect example of patience in the Bible. Then she said that in the Children's Home their example is Uncle Dan. That he never yells at them but calmly sits down and talks to them about what they did wrong. Kyle opened the service up and several kids apologized to me and others. I of course apologized for my lack of patience sometimes with them. One of the girls in the Home said in the service that she doesn't have a mom or dad but she has Dan and I for her parents now. She thanked the Lord for us. I teared up because it really touched me.

The next day, a Monday, this same sweet girl who thanked the Lord for us went to high school with the rest of the group. At lunchtime we discovered she was no longer at the school. She had run away. No one saw it coming because she has been absolutely wonderful in the few months that she has been with us. I had never ever had any trouble with her. On the contrary she has been like a second mother in the Home, not only with her little sister but with others as well. This was a heartbreakng experience for everyone. Kyle went to the police station with the Principal to file the missing person's report. Then he had to meet with a lawyer and give testimony. I have spent a lot of time with calls and messages to report the incident to the authorities I needed to for the Children's Home. Then as the nationwide police alert went out I received calls and messages from others. Monday was terrible for everyone but what put our minds at ease is the boyfriend did not call or answer his phone on Tuesday. This proved to me that he knew where she was at least. Today she answered my whatsapp message from last week. She is at her brother's house and safe. Praise the Lord!!

That same Monday, we said goodbye to Pedro. There were many tears shed when he left. He is super friendly. He was voted "Mr. Friendly" at youth camp this year. Even though he has always struggled with language he communicates volumes with his smile. Everybody loves Pedro! We are sad for us but happy for him that he can be reunited with his family.

Since that was 2 difficult Mondays in a row I joked that I was running away the next Monday. This Monday was calmer because I had all the boys on punishment from their fighting and yelling in their room the night before. We got a lot of yard work done Monday and they went to bed really tired and were little angels.

Now for the good news about the kids – 3 Saturdays ago there was to be a festival at the local school. Kyle, Dani and I took all the kids to the school the morning of the festival and we cut grass, raked, picked up and burned garbage and planted some plants around the school. The purpose was to teach the kids to give back to the community. They worked really hard and were very proud of how great it looked when we were down. That night some of our kids danced a traditional dance at the festival and did a great job.

The second Saturday was Mercedes 15th birthday. The forecast was cold and a lot of rain. Thankfully it was a beautiful warm and dry day. Yet again we had lots of help from some wonderful people. Dan had asked a man to do the grilling for me since he wasn't going to be here. At the end of the night I asked him how much I owed for his hours of work. He wouldn't take any money. This same man's wife has done the hair and makeup for the last 3 fifteen birthday girls free of charge. The birthday party ended up feeling like a family reunion. Angel, Pati and Carolina (both sisters of Mercedes), Elena and Rocio were all there. Carolina lives in the city now and can't get home very often anymore because of her heavy schedule in medical school. The other 4 used to live at the Home. It was nice to hear each one say something about the Home that they missed. The 15th birthday parties, as you can imagine, are a lot of work so I am relieved that the 4 for this year are all done. Next year I have 3 more.

Last Saturday night we took all our kids and a bunch of the neighbor teens to a Rock concert at Dan's local church in Carapegua. I like Rock and Roll because my feet are on the "Rock" and my name is on the "Roll". The music....not so much! I wanted to take the teens to show them a different style of Christian music and to give them an outing. I also wanted to show my support to the local church. The first group was loud and heavy rock. I didn't understand a single word. A local Pastor gave a great message that really reached some of my kids. The next 2 groups were better in my opinion and sang a couple of songs they sing on the Christian Radio Station. A highlight of the night, for me, was a couple that pulled up across the road from the church during the break. They rode in on a really nice motorcycle that got all of our attention. Then they pulled their bike in front of the church. One of the youth went to greet them. I assume that he invited them. The young couple opened up the beer they brought with them and drank it right there. Once the music started we went inside. I looked over and that couple were in the church listening to the music.

This weekend starts a 2 week winter break. During the second week we have a camp coming in with food included. The kids get a break but Kyle, Dani and I will spend the first week cleaning, cutting grass and getting ready for the camp and the second week cooking and serving in the camp kitchen.

I am also thankful for my neighbor Francisco, He is working on the new building and he is my driver. He gets the high school kids at noon and twice a week 2 kids in the afternoon. He is always willing to get me whenever I call after getting groceries, finished at the dentist with the kids etc.

The new construction of the second Children's Home is coming along great as you can see in the photo at the top of the first page. The crew is doing a great job. Again I am thankful Kyle is here to deal with all that. All I am responsible for is calling the supplier for more material as needed and paying at the end of each week.

I am so thankful to have Dani and Kyle here to help with the work and the kids. There is no way Dan could have left if I didn't have them here to help. Dan arrives home late the 25th of this month and we are counting down the days.



PEDRO

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Happy Late Canada Day and 4th of July!

Blessings to all!

Dan and Gwen

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