



Bible Art Ministries

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Newsletter March 2011

Report from Colombia

By German Rozo

This month we returned to the school I mentioned in the October Newsletter, where the principal had been murdered by a student when the principal discovered him doing drugs in the washroom (the student had previously stolen from the principal's office as well). The school has been renamed in his honour, "José Jaime Rojas School." It is a modern, well-built public school in a difficult neighbourhood. The police regularly patrol around the school.

I made 13 presentations in the afternoons. During one presentation, one student was violent and disrespectful. Afterwards he came close to me and said "I want to go to be with my mother." I asked where his mother was. "Dead," he answered, and he began to cry in front of the students and teacher.

He told me of the problems with his new step-mother, that he did not want to live. I placed one hand on his heart and the other on his head, and prayed for him. I understood that the reason he misbehaved in the presentation was to give him an excuse to talk to me afterwards. When we finished



German at the new school

German and a student approach the new school

praying, his face did not have its downcast look, and I felt that the Lord had used me in this boy's life.

The afternoon coordinator then recommended me to the morning coordinator, and I was able to speak with the grade fours in the morning. I was sharing the word, when a boy about nine years old said "My father has been sent to jail for three years, can it be that God loves him?" I answered, "Yes, God loves him so much that He permitted the police to catch him and put in jail to have time to think about his life. The Holy Spirit will be talking with him about his bad steps." The boy and I prayed that God will work with his father during his time in jail, so he changes



his way of thinking and doing. The photo shows his classmates holding hands in a circle during the prayer. After the prayer, they all gave him a hug.

During another presentation in the same school, we were interrupted by a teacher who came in



Apologies accepted



The boy supported by his classmates

and spoke offensively to them then left. I was puzzled, and asked the students why he did that. They told me that some students had insulted him because he was black and because of his way of speaking.

I asked those students who had offended the teacher to raise their hands. I asked them, to go with me to the teacher's classroom and apologize for their bad behaviour. They did, and the teacher forgave them and they shook hands.

I asked the same question in each classroom: "How many Bible stories do you know?" Few did. I invited them to read the Bible, which teaches more than television does. I said T.V. isn't bad, but many of the programs are, and they should choose to watch the good programs. I quoted 1 Thessalonians 5:21-2: "Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil."

There are many students who want someone to share their concerns with, about spiritual needs, and they have no one. Most teachers cannot do this with the students. The students need the word of God; they are like sheep without a shepherd. In their faces and their questions you can see the need for spiritual food. Please pray for them.

Forgiveness

In another public school, the teacher sat quietly at the back. Afterwards, she reflected on my talk and said: "To forgive is not so easy, yet God tells us to forgive." I answered "No, it's not easy. But it's not impossible either." I shared my testimony with her and the class.

It was that for seven years, I had a root of bitterness and hate for certain people. Then I finally decided to forgive them and took the first step of asking them to forgive me and said that I forgave them. Since then, my life has become much better. God has blessed us with a baby boy, after several years during which my wife couldn't get pregnant. God has given us the new house we now live in. And, most importantly, God is able to use me more effectively in His work.

The teacher said it was a beautiful testimony. I invited her to forgive who she needed to forgive. She smiled, and accepted that she had to take the first step, and forgive.

My last words to her were:
"We need to forgive, for God to forgive us."

Report from Florida

By Rev. Stan Crookall

Amidst the crowded excitement and turmoil of opening day at a new Sweet Tomato restaurant, my attention was drawn to a sweet little three year old girl at a nearby table. She was quietly enjoying the meal. The scripture "train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it" came to my mind. Later, when I passed by their table, I whispered to the mother "that is a special treasure sitting next to you." The mother said, "Thank you." Although I had spoken softly, it seemed everyone at the table had heard, and appreciated.

When God calls us to minister to children he also gives us a special love for them, and a vision of the great potential, of a whole life, saved to serve Him. Thank you for sharing this vision and standing with us in prayerful support.

May the Lord bless you real good.