



Whirlwind Missions

Outreach Update April 2012

www.whirlwindmissions.org



Hello, my friends!

It's been wonderful having the teams in town helping us at the missions! This week we had a group of middle schoolers. They were super enthusiastic and great workers.

I came into the mission to check on them and immediately sensed that something was wrong. One of the youngsters looked really upset. I sat down to help some of the kids with their homework and began listening to his story.

"My dad died when I was seven. He died of cancer." His eyes began to fill with tears. So did mine.

"That was years ago. Sometimes I forget what he sounded like. It's really sad." He covered his eyes with his hand and bowed his head. Some of the other adults from his team gathered around him. "I saw him once at school."

"At school?" I asked.

"Yes, I remember being so sad about not being able to see him any more. I was walking down the hall at school and then suddenly I saw him. Right there in the hall! I was so shocked that I dropped all of my books out of my arms."

"Wow! What happened then?"

"People started to help me pick up my books. I looked down to gather them up and when I looked up he was gone." He began to cry and cover his face. I related this story to him.

"I remember a few years ago I had a little boy that I loved who died. I was at his house moments before he passed away. His name was Emerson. He was the first child that I met at Azalea. He had been sick and then got better. We all thought he was going to be ok. Then suddenly, he got sick again and within just a couple of months died. He died on his fifth birthday. About that same time, one of Kathy's Uncles died. He was a great man of God! He had pastored several churches, been the leader of the Children's Home, and was just altogether a wonderful man. I couldn't understand why God had allowed this little boy, or this great pastor to die in such sudden ways. I was really shaken by it."

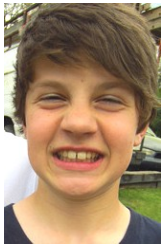
"I remember talking to my brother, Jim. He told me, 'You know Tim, in the long run we are only on Earth for a very short time. Eternity with the Lord is MUCH longer. So it's really not a Good Bye, it's only a See You Later!.' That was the only thing that helped me. I know that your Dad is really proud of you. You've done a wonderful job helping the kids at the mission. And I know that one day you'll be able to see your Dad again and he'll hug you and tell you how much he loves you."

My friend looked up at me, nodded his head and said, "Yeah, you're right."

The Lord has really laid on my heart lately how people near us, that look like everything is just fine, may have tremendous pain and hurt that they're dealing with. Be sensitive to what people are saying around you. You may be just the life preserver that they need!

THANKS for your prayers for us! We are making a difference in people's lives. We can't do it without YOU!

Pray for your friends in need! Love you! Tim & Kathy



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