

Treasuring His Word...

From the Pastor's Heart:

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me" (Matthew 18:1-5).

Please be in prayer for our Ecuador Mission Team as they leave this coming Saturday to go work with Dena and Gary Pate, missionaries to the children of Ecuador. Please note the following report from their latest newsletter (some paraphrased):

"We have been very busy with mission teams and our 11 Bible clubs. We have had 8 teams already and have 16 more coming through October. This is a great opportunity to share the ministry with others, and the teams are a blessing to the children and to us. One team from Florida, prayed with us for a father in a wheelchair who brought 6 children to attend our club in Ruizho. His legs were paralyzed. But by the power of God, he is now walking and comes to our Bible club with his children every week to learn about Jesus. It is the rainy season now, and one of our donors gave funds to purchase ponchos for the children. They have to walk long distances in the rain, often using small plastic trash bags or cardboard for covering (if they have anything at all). It can get very cold when it rains, so the ponchos help protect them from the rain and cold, and prevent them from getting sick.

We were in one of our Bible clubs when an ice cream truck drove by. It was odd to see one. In that moment, we decided to treat the kids, so we chased down the truck and had him turn around. That day the children had a wonderful treat of ice cream cones. The children were super excited, all with smiles. This may seem insignificant, but when we go into these remote villages to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with these children and adults who are not only poor, but are spiritually poor, we must build relationships with them by spending time with them and by showing them the love of Christ. Matthew 10:42 speaks of giving "even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones." I think Jesus would be ok with us changing water to ice cream that day!

Thank you for your prayers, financial support, and love. You make it possible for us to share the Gospel above the clouds in our remote villages of the Southern Andes Mountains of Ecuador. This is not the Pate's work, but the Lord's work, so when you give you are giving to the Lord and His work."

Again, pray for the Pates, the children of Ecuador, and our Ecuador Mission Team.

Those of you who went through the "Becoming a Disciple-Maker" process, please turn your "Blue Forms" in to your group leader or a staff member.