

Emmanuel Ministries

February 3, 2009

Dear Friends of Emmanuel,

As I walk through the hallways of Emmanuel, I am constantly reminded of God's love. I smell the good food being prepared by the cooks, I see the dorm mothers busy folding clothes and cleaning the dorms, I watch our maintenance crew working hard to have a nice building for our boys and girls, and I am grateful for them all and for all of you who make Emmanuel's work possible. I am reminded of this passage: "No **one** has ever seen God; but if we **love one another**, God lives in us and his **love** is made complete in us." 1 John 4:12. I believe that through our love for one another, your love for these precious children, and our work together the world is able to see God. What a powerful thing when we do what we were created to do: "love one another"!

Here at Emmanuel things are booming. This coming Sunday we will begin our soccer tournaments once again, the children are so excited. I want to share with you a little miracle the Lord did in two of our boys this past week.

Rolando and Ricardo Quezada are two of our teens that have been with us for the past 5 years. Their mother abandoned them when they were very young. Mr. Quezada, their dad tried his best to raise them and would leave them with his brother while he went to work. He found out his boys were not being properly cared for and were being abused. That is when Mr. Quezada brought his boys to Emmanuel.



Rolando and Ricardo have grown up before our very eyes and they have turned into teenagers. In this process they had grown apart from each other, not only not spending time as siblings but they had become aggressive and distant towards each other. When we realized this we felt very sad and began to pray for them and their relationship.

During one of our Thursday prayer services Rolando began to cry inconsolably during our worship time and one of the dorm dads, Luis, approached him and began to pray for him and ask him if there was a specific prayer he wanted to lift to the Lord. Rolando shared how lonely he felt, and how he constantly worried about his dad being all alone and battling alcoholism. Luis began to speak to Rolando and encouraged him to pray for his dad for healing in his life. Luis encouraged Rolando to ask the Lord to fill his heart and take that lonely feeling but he also challenged him to look for a relationship

with his younger brother who was right there standing a few feet away. When the service was over, Rolando went over to his brother Ricardo and hugged him, Ricardo was feeling the same way, a need for a relationship with his brother, they asked each other's forgiveness for hurting their feelings before, and they promised to pray for their father as a team and to be there for each other from now on.

Since that Thursday, Rolando and Ricardo have not been the same. They are much more lighthearted, they smile more and we can see them hanging out together, playing soccer, running around doing their chores, even doing homework together. We know there is still much work the Lord will do in Rolando and Ricardo, but we believe they have an open heart to let the Lord do it and He has just began. So we ask you to help us pray for these two boys and for the other 93 children the Lord has entrusted us, and by US I mean you over there and us over here.

Thank you for your love, your support and your prayers. Thank you for making a difference.

Many Blessings

Betel Lopez

Executive Director

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