

# Costa Rican Reflections



The Sunday before Christmas, Jordan made a birthday card for Jesus in her Sunday School class. On Christmas Eve, when we explained that we would be lighting the Advent candles and singing to celebrate Jesus' birth, she ran to get her card. Then she did something that was so sweet that we just have to share it with you.

She held the card high above her head, "so Jesus can see it," and then pressed it to her chest, "so He can come into my heart." It was so simple and so precious! There was no doubt in her little mind that Jesus exists, no doubt that He would see her, no doubt that He'd hear and respond. Of course He'd accept her; He loves her!

That is the kind of childlike faith that Jesus urges us as His followers to have. He wants us to trust Him implicitly, to follow Him without wavering, to believe that He really does love unconditionally, and to love as He loves. A faith like Jordan's is beautiful and wonderful, but even childlike faith must be nurtured. It must be educated and matured, for we are not to remain as children. If we were, Paul would not have admonished the Corinthians for being unable to handle the "solid food" of his spiritual teaching.

There are millions of believers in Latin America whose faith could be classified as "childlike." We rejoice at this statistic, but we also know that it means there is a *lot* of work to do to nurture and mature the faith of those believers. The mission of LATN/ProMETA is the same as Paul's charge to Timothy, to "entrust [his teachings] to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others" (2 Timothy 2:2b), and well it should be! We've witnessed firsthand the abuses that take place within the church when the people and their leaders are not instructed in the Truth. By making it our goal to provide sound theological training to the leaders of leaders in the Spanish speaking world, we are multiplying our effect across the globe. As our students share what they've learned with other leaders, their congregations, their seminary students, and their families, they are nurturing the childlike faith of those around them. The Church is growing in the knowledge and wisdom of the Lord, and we believe He is pleased!



Enjoying a sunny Costa Rican Christmas

In April, 2011, LATN/ProMETA will be graduating its first class of Master's level students. Though just a small group of men, they have already impacted literally *thousands* of lives through their ministries. We are proud of them and blessed by God to be a part of such an important, far-reaching ministry. We also recognize that as highly educated church leaders, our students are on the front lines in the battle against the enemy. We covet your prayers for them and for our ministry as this banner year unfolds.

## Please Pray:

- Praise God for our first graduation!
- Praise for Martha's healing from cancer.
- Pray for protection from physical & spiritual attack.
- Pray that we'd all

increase in faith and godliness.

- Pray for increased \$ support.



In addition to the blessings we expect for 2011, we must mention one of the most impressive answers to prayer that we received in 2010. In mid-December, our LATN teammate, Martha Hendrickson, who was diagnosed with breast cancer last fall, had a body scan that showed *no signs of cancer!* What an incredible Christmas gift for her family and our team! Join us in praising God for this miraculous answer to prayer, and please continue to pray for Martha's health as well as for the protection of each of our team members. We, too, are engaged in war against evil, and we depend on your prayers.

As we ring in the New Year, we thank God for His faithfulness to us in the past and the promise of that same faithfulness in the future. After all, He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. May you experience His faithfulness to the full in 2011!

In His Grace,

Henry, Marcette, Meghan, Lindsay & Jordan

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