

12/08/09

I didn't get a chance to tell all that has been going on here. When I was trying to write you we had a house (office) full. Some kids were at the table getting help with homework, some were coloring and some were just hanging around. All were enjoying a cup of hot coco. And of course I had three girls in my office trying to have a conversation with me. Oh, and one little girl on my lap as I tried to type.

The kids loved the Thanksgiving cups full of candy, pencils and the gloves that Boyd brought from his wife.

Halloween was amazing. Our team changed the entire inside of our office. The walls were covered and it looked like a pirate cave. We all dressed up like pirates and we took 10 kids in at a time to walk through each room. Each room told a story and the last room was about heaven and how to get there. We had so many kids and adults that we had to do it for two nights instead of just the one night.

We had a pizza and ice cream get together with the junior high and high school kids. Our first meeting with them. We had about 20 kids! One young man ate a whole gallon of ice cream by himself. Great time with them.

Different team members and ourselves have gone to various school functions, parents nights, choir etc. Tomorrow I have to go to school and talk to a teacher about one of our sweet little girls who got released from safety patrol because of a misunderstanding.

We had 10 junior high and high school girls spend the night at my house. Our female staff came and helped me with this crazy night. We ate, watched movies, ate, gave them facials, ate, our team gave them manicures and they ate some more. I have never seen a group of girls eat so much. We took all of them to Wal-Mart to shop for our food. Now that was a sight to see! We bought them lunchables for the 5 min. ride home. As soon as we got home (5 o'clock) we had pizza, spaghetti, salad, fruit and soda. Between 6 pm & midnight they had chips, cookies, pie, popcorn and brownies!!!!

We have taken them to two outdoor Christian concerts (one of which our band played). Timiko taught our girls a drum set that they performed at National night out. We took them to ride a horse for the first time and to a petting zoo. Our guys on staff had a couple of days where they just set up a bike repair shop outside of our house (office). They fixed tires until Wal-Mart was out of our size! Handle bars, brakes and chains were adjusted and there were many smiley little faces. :)

Our team also spends time one on one comforting the kids when they have had a bad day

at school or at home. We tell them that Jesus loves them no matter what is going on in their lives, and Jesus sent us here to be His arms to hug them and to love on them. Just today Marty and I sat outside on the curb comforting the little girl who was crying because she got dismissed from patrol.

Oh, and of course our "kids club" on Thursdays, and play days on Mondays and Fridays.

Very busy loving our kids and trying to make a difference in their lives.

After 25 yrs. in the ministry this has to be one of the hardest, most challenging, draining physically, mentally and spiritually things we have ever done. We are having to re-parent these kids and teach them about Jesus and at the same time teach them how to behave, be kind, all in all how to have manners. They all scream above each other to get our attention, they act out for attention. If we don't catch them in time they run through the office touching and getting into any and every thing they can get their little hands on. Most are thankful for what we give and do for them and others just want more and are never thankful.

BUT, we know God has us here for these kids. No matter how tired or discouraged we get, our team pulls its self together for another day.

Thank you and your staff for believing in Ethnos and letting us live our dream. Yes, it is our dream, not our nightmare. We DO love what we do, even when it is hard because we know we are making a difference in these little lambs lives for eternity. God has in trusted them to us, so we must and we will make an impact and difference. Because who knows what "World changer and History maker" is in our mist? Another Billy Graham, Martin Luther King Jr. or a Caesar Chavez?

Love to all,
Imogene