

*"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord
and great shall be the peace of thy children."
Isaiah 54:13*

October 8, 2016

Dear Pastors and Praying Friends,

God bless you all.

Orphanage school: Our need to quickly receive approval from the Panama Ministry of Education as an independent school has reached a crisis point. The umbrella school that carried us for 2 years will no longer be able to continue doing that after December. The process for approval by the Ministry of Education involves about 20 steps, each one involving a red tape procedure that moves like refrigerated molasses. Add these 2 facts together and believe me when I tell you, we need a full-blown miracle of God.

Orphanage students: We finished second trimester last month with most of the children earning excellent grades. Many in the advanced class have completed 2 years' worth of PACEs already this year. This represents a great effort and commitment on their part, and I am so happy for them because they are catching up to their legal (on paper) grade which they were years behind when they started with us. Last week 3 out of 6 of our K's passed the hardest PACE of all, the one that transitions from letters to reading.

Orphanage teachers: My teaching team consists of 6 young ladies besides Wendy and me. Last month I sent 3 of them for their official ACE training in Panama City. They came back with an excitement that was contagious to the students and other teachers. I am so proud of every single one of them not only teaching academics but also training the children in so many things that children would normally learn at home from their parents.

The big picture: What do children really need? They need to be brought up by their parents in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. What does this consist of? Spiritual training, family relationships, food, shelter, clothes, orderliness, ABC's, job-training, birthday cakes...the list goes on and on. Right now, we are standing in the place of family for "our" kids, just doing what we can to give them as wholesome and normal a childhood as we can under the circumstances.

Prayer requests: Please lift up the children and the ministry in prayer according to these truths in God's Word: Deuteronomy 10:18, Psalm 68:5, and Psalm 82:3.

Praises: • Orphanage children Adelina, Isahiro, and Josué accepted Christ after devotions in school one morning (our kindergarten teacher Paty Rodriguez leading them to the Lord). All three children have been baptized now.

- Outreach soul-winning in the park – 7 teenagers accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- Pastor Rafael and his wife Tracy were able to start a weekly Bible study at the boys' ranch where "our" boy Yoel was moved to. We also got to visit him.

For the Gospel's sake,
Betty Gillies, Missionary to Panama
Psalm 63:7

bettygillies@yahoo.com.

Betty Gillies
Dolega, Chiriqui
Rep. of Panama 0432
Panama cell phone: 011-507-6708-6060

Sending church and donations received at:
Shenandoah Baptist Church
P O Box 5207
Cleveland, TN 37320
Phone: (423) 339-0103

A



Advanced class on field trip with teachers Elsa, Yanina, and Wendy.

Teacher Elsa doing Mariana's hair after school.

