

The Abel's
serving in
Paraguay



Abel Family: Mafú, Nay, Zoey, Ian, Boaz and Levi



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link to donate!

Resuming Construction

Having played Bert in the Mary Poppins musical in High School I have most of the lines seared into my memory. One of Poppins lines is; "Well begun is half done." I like the idea because many times we waste too much energy thinking about something yet unstarted. The Pavilion Project is well begun but not quite half done. We need to raise money for the floor. The professionally poured concrete floor with an epoxy paint finish for sports will cost \$18,000 Dollars. As soon as we can get the money raised we'll be out of the dirt. Please consider donating to this project.

Two Conversations in a Day

Meeting Gerardo

Monday at 7 am, as usual, Maxima came to deliver the morning milk. This day she also had a request. As Maxi had been helped by Ednay with physical therapy when she broke her arm, now she wanted to know if her nephew could be helped as well. Though a homemaker and mother of four never has extra time on her hands, Ednay welcomes new patients as an opportunity to demonstrate the love of God. In a work accident a while back Gerardo severed a tendon in his wrist. Post-surgery, lack of mobility, swelling, and pain are reasons he needs PT. I greeted Gerardo at the gate and immediately noticed his straggly, untrimmed beard and long hair. At the end of the PT session, we talked about the Gospel. Gerardo belongs to a cult of Judaizers named the "church of Israel" and he expressed that salvation depends on our works.



Gerardo belongs to a cult of Judaizers named the "church of Israel" and he expressed that salvation depends on our works. I said; "Gerardo, that cannot be! If salvation depends on your adherence to the law you will never make it. Besides your inevitable failures to keep the law perfectly, there is the problem that whenever you do manage to obey you will be proud of it, comparing yourself to those who you deem not to be as law-observing as yourself. Gerardo, if 99% is God's grace but 1% of your salvation depends on works you'll find yourself condemned by your own failure to fulfill it. That is why Jesus came: to save! Eph. 2:8-9 says that it is by grace you have been saved through faith, this not of yourselves it is a gift of God not by works so that no man may boast."

Gerardo will be back for more PT on Thursday and I am praying that the powerful work of the Holy Spirit through the Word will break down the barriers to this man's acceptance of grace. That he may be set free from the foolishness of the Galatians (Gal.3). Pray with me.



Meeting Gary

On Monday nights after the kids are in bed, I play a sport called padel. This last Monday I met Gary. Gary is convinced that there is a God but he doesn't believe in religion. He told me: "Whoever God is he is but it doesn't really matter to me. I've seen all the religions around here and respect them all. The problem is that each thinks they are right and the others are wrong. I don't think it matters." I guessed that Gary is a relativist, expressing the common postmodern idea that you can have your own truth.

I had a great conversation with him and have his number. I sent him the audio of my sermon from last Sunday and he said he would listen to it.

Pray for Gary to realize the exclusivity of truth and to truly meet Jesus; The Way the Truth and the Life.

Turn the world upside down

The point I'm trying to make is that we meet very different people with very different worldviews and attempt to minister to each. I don't know if Gerardo or Gary will become my friends and I don't know if they will accept the friendship of Jesus offered in the Gospel. But I do know that God loves them and the Holy Spirit is calling to them. The parable of the sower explained in Matthew 13:19, 23 says "When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart... But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

Pray with us for this kind of harvest in the lives of those to whom we minister.

