



INTENSE DISCIPLESHIP

Greetings from Cabudare, Venezuela. Things have started out with a bang here ministry wise. We have made a major focus in the area of discipleship and we are seeing tremendous fruit on the part of those being discipled. I believe that discipleship is the most neglected part of the Great Commission. We have a few people with a tremendous desire to grow in their faith. Normally, we have discipleship in my home from about 2 in the afternoon on Sunday until sometimes 8 and 9 o'clock. As Americans we take for granted the materials and resources so readily available to us. Teaching people not only that they need to give their lives to Christ, but also how to face the everyday Christian life is the essential part of discipleship. Currently, we are discipling a couple and several individuals. We are seeing growth from all, but the couple truly stands out. Their names are Javier and Enmilder. To be honest I have never seen a couple so hungry for the Word of God. Recently, Enmilder's mom recently gave her life to Christ this past week and Enmi is starting the process of discipling her at home as her first disciple. It is so exciting to see how people who desire to mature in the spiritual faith and watching as they progressively grow into a deeper intimate walk with God.

FAMILY LIFE

We are excited to see our kids grow into ministry positions. Especially the two older boys. Samuel comes to me and speaks to me often about ways to reach out to people. He also plays guitar as part of our worship team. He works hard and is currently receiving lessons from Enmilder's dad Enderson. Please pray for Enderson. He has attended our discipleship groups in our home with Javier and Enmi. By his own confession, he has never surrendered himself completely to God. He knows he is not saved, but I truly believe that the Holy Spirit is working in his heart. Luke, our second son has a tremendous heart for God and people. Recently we had some street kids come by that we gave food to. After they left, Luke cried and cried about their physical and spiritual condition. Jude and Ellie still don't see the big picture of ministry. They still are in the "participation" stage of being part of their Sunday School class, but I believe God is going to use them in a great way.

PHYSICAL NEED

We work hard to be wise stewards of the support that God has given us. As the country continues to plunge deeper into hyperinflation and socialism one of the things that we must take into consideration is our personal safety. We try to vary times and routes to never call attention to a would be criminal to follow us. Recently, we had a bit of a scare that has prompted a necessity to raise additional funds. About 2 weeks ago, after Wednesday evening service I was giving people a ride to their homes. I always try to be very vigilant as to my surroundings. It became very aware that there was a car following us. To date we are not sure of their intent. It could have been to rob us or steal the car. The car followed us through several narrow streets. Without doubt they were trying to follow us. As to their intentions we will never know, but we do know that God was protecting us. As for our vehicle situation we have found it imperative to upgrade to something more safe and dependable. Our goal is to raise **\$15,000** in order to purchase a large reliable ministry vehicle so that we can do the work of the ministry as well as be able to safely keep the windows rolled up and not draw attention to the fact that we are foreigners. The car fund has been approved by our mission board. If God moves your heart to be a part of this need you can do it through our mission board as they can furnish you with a donation receipt. When sending in donations for the vehicle please indicate "7754 Sykes Vehicle fund" via whatever type of correspondence.

LOUIS PALOMO OUR VISA CONTACT

We are always looking for opportunities to share Christ with others. Mr. Louis Palomo worked in the immigration department here in Venezuela for over 40 years. He is our visa contact and is working with our papers. If you are familiar with 3rd world politics and bureaucracy you know the difficulty in securing paperwork. Not to mention here that many times the internet is down. I purchased the book "Experiencing God" and gifted it to Mr. Palomo a few months ago and prayed that God would open doors. Recently he called asking for more paperwork and mentioned that he enjoyed the book. He mentioned the several verses in the book really caught his attention, but that He did not have a Bible. Recently, we purchased a Bible and tomorrow we will be sending it to him. Please pray that Sr. Palomo gives his heart and life to Christ!

Please Prayerfully Remember:

- Transient Visas - We Are **STILL** in the waiting process
- Thankful for God's protection
- Pray for receptive hearts in both discipleship and outreach
- Thankful for reaching our one year anniversary of the church plant.

The Sykes