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Dear Praying Friends,

I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. (John 15:5) Serving God, we can fall into a routine and forget our true Source of strength. We can become discouraged when things “don’t go well” and prideful when they do. But nothing of true worth is ever done apart from God. May we abide in the True Vine and remember that it is not about us. For without Him, we can do nothing.

### Political Unrest

This year started with political unrest in the country. The government had written a new penal code which would have (among other things) made it illegal to share our faith (punishable by 7-12 years in prison). In addition, the current President wants to run again for another term (like his hero Chavez), even though the people voted against it. But the heart of the king is in the hand of the Lord. God saw fit to annul the penal code. And we are praying for His will in the 2019 elections.

### Junior Camp

This unrest threatened to stop many from coming to Junior Camp, as there were blockades and protests all over the country. But God once again intervened, and had the blockades lifted just in time for camp. We had, I believe, 148 kids, plus all the adult workers. God brought fruit that week, as 30 kids made decisions for Christ, 17 of them being for salvation. One of the kids, Eduardo, was from our village of Valle Abajo. After the service, I talked with him. And with tears in his eyes, he thanked me for bringing him to camp. I about broke down myself. Praise the Lord! Please pray that this fruit will remain, and that we might be able to disciple those who trusted Christ as Savior.

### Church Growth

This fruit has continued as God has brought others to us. First, there is Yoselin, a 23 year old girl who is from Valle Abajo, but has been working elsewhere in an orphanage. She seems to be a Christian, but her parents are strong Catholics. Recently, she decided to study to be a teacher in the nearby market town of Mairana. Having met her before, she knew of our church and came by to visit. Whenever she is in town, she faithfully attends all the services. Pray for wisdom in finding out her testimony, and that she might remain faithful and grow in her relationship with God. Second, there is Pedro, our neighbor who lives behind the church. He stood outside a couple of times, listening to the services. The second service, he stayed around to talk with me. Partially inebriated, he told me that he wanted to give up drinking. I told him that he had to fix his heart before he fixed that. After sharing the gospel with him, he prayed to accept Jesus as his Savior. After praying, he told me that he felt as if a weight had been lifted. He appeared to understand, but I intend to follow up with discipleship. I already gave him a Bible to read. Please pray for