

DECEMBER 2007

The Simpsons Working in El Salvador



A year ago I was in 'jail'. Now I am free!!!

This past week, we had our Vacation Bible School. We started preparing back in October and, to tell you the truth, after our first meeting (with only five of us), I thought there would be no VBS this year. I guess for me it was the culmination of what the whole year had been like ~ *People not doing what they say they will do* ~ *Me being discouraged because things don't go my way.*

On Saturday, we had our VBS closing ceremony and a dinner for the whole church afterwards. I'm told there were about 70 guests. God reminded me what really has been happening this year. He has been working in our lives. He has been teaching us to live for Him, to give our lives over to Him and to serve Him with our lives, not just our mouths. It was the same on Saturday. God has been working in those people's lives, too; taking them to a point where they realize God is the only sure thing. He has all the answers and we can depend and trust on Him alone.

This year has been tough, which means it has been good. God is cleaning our hearts, revealing what is really in our hearts. And He is purifying us, throwing out the sin (the things that dishonor Him) and teaching us what living by the power of His love really means. That is why Jesus came - to set us free from our wickedness - to cleanse us and make us holy - to give us life. We have so much to be thankful for and yet we live as though we are owed all these things. We really deserve Hell and Jesus made it so we could live. Everything we receive is because of mercy and grace. We should be thankful for everything, realizing we deserve nothing.

God has worked in so many lives this week, this month, today. Pray we will listen to His voice and turn to Him. Pray we will be free and lead others to that freedom.

I would encourage you to take God seriously, to believe with the life you LIVE that Jesus actually came to die for you to give you real life!! Live by His power, understand His sacrifice. **THERE IS POWER IN THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF THE LAMB.** Live like you believe this. Ask God to show you, to reveal to you the true condition of your heart. Have the courage to do this because, once you ask it of God, there is no turning back. It is an amazing and painful journey that, if started, ends with Christ's victory in our lives.

May God transform your life this coming year!!!!

Jon + Kelly

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