

Prayer Requests

This month we ask our Partners to be in prayer with us regarding:

- Milton and Olga as they struggle with communication in their marriage; their children as they deal with the effects
- The OSA team as we enter into a new season of relationships
- Reorganizing the workshop for Forming Healthy Families with mothers, pray for guidance and team-work
- Jessica's pregnancy
- Drug abusers in the community that gather in the adjacent lot
- Pray that God would bring more women to the small group Bible study that Jess is leading as well as guidance for Jess in this study

July's Thought...

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Galatians 5:25

Father's Day Celebration

Holiday celebrations are a special time for OSA because it gives us a chance to unite the families in the program and share something that they would not do on their own. Most men work 6 days a week here, and Sunday is for soccer with their friends, drinking, chicken fights, or sitting around the house. OSA is trying to break this mold, encouraging families to spend time together. Father's Day was a chance for the couples to spend quality time together, enjoying one another's company. Even most of the single mothers came out to support in the event.

To reciprocate the special treatment the fathers gave them for Mothers Day, the ladies took care of all the preparations. They purchased more chicken than I had ever seen in my life, marinated it Peruvian style, and peeled potatoes for longer than I'd like to imagine. A group of four mothers, Jess included, set up the tents. They struggled with the set up and all laughed together as they had to rebuild it several times because the incorrect connections fell apart. It was nice to see the mothers all working together out of love for their partners.

Once the fathers arrived we all embarrassed ourselves in a few activities such as musical chairs, the limbo, an eating contest, and a race with our partners. I began to feel a sense of community developing within the group as they laughed with one another and encouraged others in the games. They got a good laugh when I fell over backwards in the limbo contest. A group of fathers was pitted against a group of mothers and my partner was a lady no taller than my sternum. Needless to say she could almost walk under the rope upright while I was doubled over backwards!

It's encouraging to us to see the couples come together like this. One couple was together in an event for the first time since separating a few months ago. A few fathers chose not to come and some worked, please continue to keep them in your prayers. In the end we sang Happy Birthday to little Nicol who lives here at OSA House with her family. She turned 4 and is one of Joshua's favorite playmates.



Upcoming Events

July 19th

- Joshua's 2nd birthday

July 23rd

- Student Award store

July 24th

- July birthday celebrations

July 21st – 25th

- Buckner summer interns joining us in Collique

July 25th – August 9th

- Winter Break

Women's Bible Study



Partners in Ministry:

- Operación San Andrés
www.operacionsanandres.org
- South Main Baptist Church
www.smbc.org
- Tallowood Baptist Church
www.tallowood.org
- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
www.thefellowship.info
- Buckner International
www.buckner.org

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A Better Foundation – Chris and I have been learning as we go with respect to God's will for our work here in Collique. Two weeks ago a situation abruptly presented itself to us and we felt it was a chance to minister to a young couple. This couple is struggling and going through some difficult times as the father has moved out. We are listening for God's guidance as we show what the Bible says about marriage, and share what we have experienced as a couple to help them. From our conversations, it appears we are the only couple they have talked with about their conflicts. It's clear they desire to be listened to and appreciate the chance to discuss it in a non-hostile setting. Broken marriages are an all too frequent tragedy here. We're thankful God has given us this opportunity to pray and share with this couple. Please pray with us for this couple, that the Lord will give us the wisdom and humility to work through this with them, that He will open their hearts to dealing with the difficult talk of rebuilding a marriage with God as the foundation, and that their children would see His love for them during these difficult times.

A Time of Reflection

For about 12 weeks now, I have been sharing in a very precious time with some women of the community. God has done an amazing work with what started out as a play group and turned it into a Bible study for mothers-young and old. From that group, two other women have joined. Even though we are a small group, the Lord has really done some transforming. We started the group using Mother Wise, a video Bible study with discussion questions by Denise Glenn, it has really been a blessing. It has helped our group become cohesive and understanding while building a confidence between us as members. Also, it has taught us where to start in our lives as mothers and what God expects from us. Two of the women in the group are a mother and daughter-in-law and it has been amazing to see them learn from each and actually listen to the other's needs which were lacking. I have seen the Lord bring them closer and to a better understanding of each other, even though they still have difficult moments. They can see how they are as mothers/wives and envision how they want to be. Our newest member is very young in her faith, but searching for God in her life and wants Him to help her transform the way she is living. The best thing is that God has brought us together, we're all at different places in our walk with the Lord, but His timing has been perfect and I see these women strengthening and becoming women of faith. We really have seen clearly what Jesus teaches in **Matthew 18:20** "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." God has been standing by these women and guiding them to teach their families. They all have family situations where the husband doesn't live out his faith, it is more just a means of cultural identification with Catholicism. I see the Lord working in these women to reach their husbands which is a very difficult feat. However slow the process, it is great to see the joy in their hearts when they reach a certain understanding or get through to their husbands on how important it is for their relationship and family to have the Lord as part of their family. This week the homework is to choose a verse from Proverbs 31:10-31 that we are to work on and try to add to our lives as women, wives and mothers. Please pray that we all will remember and be conscious that we are working on this to be more Christ-like in our walk, and to share God's love with our families. Please pray that God will continue to guide them, protect them, and fill their lives spiritually.