

Friday, March 26, 2010

The Spirit in Me

Romans 5:5 *And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, Whom He has given us.*

There are often times when I try to figure out how to love my neighbor. This time I thought I knew what God wanted me to do. I had discovered His will for me. It wasn't until I met a little boy that I truly discovered why He allowed me to go on a mission trip.

We all have talents that we wonder why God has given us this gift. I am fortunate to have a job in which I enjoy the work I do. One year I was wondering if there was anything else God had planned for me. What can I do for Him that would honor and glorify Him? I went online and found a web site in which linemen can volunteer their time in other countries and build electric lines to communities that have no power. I had found what God wanted me to do.

It was near the end of our first week in Bolivia and we finished a line to provide electric to a water pump that irrigated a field as well as provided drinking water for the people in that area. The people were wonderful and as always, God was great. That evening we went out to dinner at a local restaurant. It was our second visit there, and it was the second time this little boy, probably 6 and his brother 7 or 8, asked if he could shine my shoes.

At the time I had a leather brown hiker that you typically don't shine. It was cool out and lightly raining. I looked at his black shoes and how poor they were. At this point, the Spirit told me to get up and let Me take over. I got out of my chair. We were eating outside under cover, and I said to the best of my abilities, "No, you sit here and I'll shine your shoes." He did not understand at first. He looked puzzled. He sat down and I was able to clean his shoes, put a coat of wax on, brush and then buff his shoes to the best of my abilities. He kept looking at me and I at him.

My banana split came out, and I gave it to him to eat while I continued to work on his shoes. The sole of one of his shoes was flapping down in the front. While the little boy was eating his ice cream, his brother was also enjoying a seat and ice cream sundae that a co-volunteer lineman also offered. After I finished, I sat next to him and made the sign of the cross over his heart and said the words, "Jesus Cristo" in Spanish. He nodded his head yes.

I truly felt that the Lord did not send me to Bolivia to build an electric line. He sent me down to shine a pair of shoes and to humble me. He sent me to meet some wonderful people and to make a difference in a little boy's life.

Prayer: Father, thank You so much for showing me what true love is. Thank You for letting me serve and seeing Your work through me. Please continue to do Your will through me and allow me to serve others with a grateful heart. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

--Mike Christodoulou

