

HEIDI
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HEIDI'S HIGHLIGHTS

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Galatians 4:19

...of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you...

Travail. It does not sound pleasant. Yet it is part of life in this world. I cannot speak from experience as a mother who has gone through the pain of birthing a child, but I can identify with the apostle Paul in the spiritual sense. This missionary thing involves a certain amount of uncomfortable waiting. And strenuous work. And pain. Yet there is some fruit, end results so satisfying that they even erase some of the memory of the pain.

A testimony from one of the ladies in my Sunday School class: "In the country you hear parents say 'So-and-so didn't sleep last night, she was so excited about going to Town.' I feel that way about getting baptized next weekend." This *hermana* is a grandmother several years older than I, a hard worker with a simple lifestyle. She is not highly educated, but is learning little by little from the Bible. I get to be part of that!

I was thrilled recently at the response of one of our ladies to counsel from the Bible. Another adult from the church seemed to be lined up against her grandson in a seemingly unfair disciplinary action at school. That sounds simple, but as a friend and I sat and listened, we understood that the hurt feelings went very deep. One of the solutions she proposed was to change churches. (Which would have fixed nothing!) Frankly, we did not have the answer to the difficulty itself, but rather shared from the Bible about what her response could be with God's help. Then we prayed with her. "My" lady and her family had to figure out how to give the benefit of the doubt, how to forgive, how to love past disagreements. I was very encouraged the next Sunday to see the lady, her husband, and the grandson in church as usual.

Praise

- ▶ I survived my first seminary meeting via internet, and presented a "workshop".
- ▶ My parents visited for two weeks without accident or even oppressive heat.

Prayer

- Pray for visitors who will attend our ladies' evangelistic campaign March 27th-29th.
- Pray for continued advancement on logistics and legalities for the seminary. (It is already functioning, and going well.)
- Pray for wisdom and diligence for me to balance responsibilities and rest.
- Pray for two young girls, sisters who come to Sunday School and and then sit with me in the church service.

WILLY'S WINDOW

Here's a detail that shows an underlying mindset in Dominican culture:

Often only the front of a Dominican house is painted. Sides and backs may be left unprotected and can look less presentable, even ugly.

Of course, paint is not technically necessary, and it is expensive. But the fact is that the front is what people see, and thus it matters.

Impressions are important.

Appearances are what impressions are made of.