

Maloy Ministry Moments

March 2025



“Wait! You have to *pray* for us.”

Was I stepping on any toes? I didn’t know where each person stood with Christ. I knew that most of them were non-believers—if there were any believers there at all. I also knew that this house was partially supported & staffed by employees of the Cuban government—which I personally wanted to give a wide berth. Again in Spanish they commanded, “You, [Shannon] pray.” So I prayed for them. I prayed all the things for them.

The words “bright spot in a dumpster fire” kept coming to mind. Beth had pulled me aside after the introductions of the staff & who-is-sibling-to-who to tell me the sad stories of brothers who were abused by a distant relative, a young boy who survived on the streets for *years*, siblings whose parents lost custody for a time...yet here they were, thriving. A kind woman, who herself grew up in a home like this, & her gentle-giant husband (affectionately called “tío” or “uncle”) provided a loving home for this cobbled together—if not tight knit—family. The children rounded out the family they themselves could not grow biologically.

My Cru Cuba staff counterparts of course knew all this, because they invest their hearts & their resources in this “orfanato” & several others like it. They are the experts in how to build relationships with non-believers & reveal the love of Christ in their indigenous context. And now Unto is a partner there as well. They proudly pointed out the water well we built in their courtyard, & the children receive chicken & eggs several times a week from our meal project. Our staff keep faithfully coming. Like Santa, I too brought a bag of gifts. Once we got past the “needs” like soap, I got to the fun stuff like toy cars & art supplies. One little girl grabbed her booklet of the children’s gospel presentation & paced the courtyard, devouring each word immediately. I’m not sure who—me or them—got more pleasure from the shiny new soccer ball I pulled (last of course) from the bag, but a roar rose from that patio!

All gifts given, we began to wrap up our visit to let them be enjoyed. But as we turned to go, they reminded us of another blessing they were eager to receive—in fact, one they had come to expect. What began as material support for these children has truly opened the door to meet their spiritual needs as well.



Las fotos:

Julia* reads “The Four Fantastic Facts.” A moment of prayer.

Prayer Requests:

For these orphaned children to experience the care of Christ & come to know Him as Salvador y Señor—Savior & Lord!

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