

San Borja- Bolivia and Chimani tribe

Some time ago the medical team planned a trip to San Borja to give the eight health law lectures and to do some medical works. I learned more about it when they came and invited me to join them. I was really happy. They also approved to have me take Emma, my nine years old daughter.

Our team would consist of a dentist and her husband who is her assistant (Patty and Wes), a couple from the media project RedAdvenir (Saray and Federico), Emma, me and Herman the pilot.

We left on a very bad day to fly and I can tell I felt it, all the way my stomach felt every bump in the air and pushed something out, even if it had nothing to. We used the rest of the day to recover. By Monday morning we were ready for work. We had a school of 400 in the morning and other 400 in the afternoon. Imagine giving a lecture to 150-180 kids in the same time and this not in a very organized school. Anyway we were exhausted after the day. May God grant it's grace that the word said would change at least in some of them the interest in their life.



A local dentist joined our team and it ended up being the blessing from the Lord for our trip. Tuesday we found out that the school that we needed to give the lectures have classes in the afternoon. So the Mayor said that we may go to the neighboring places so the dentist and the Adventist pastor led us to a poorer neighborhood's school. We did what we could in this place giving lectures and the two dentist attending the kids.



When we were finally over at the school they got a call from the mayor suggesting that it would be better if we would go to the remote areas than to do the lectures in the city where they have more information. So after some arrangements the dental ambulance would take us to a tribe that was not very far. We had lunch than loaded in the ambulance; now this is illegal in Bolivia but the situation was very difficult. There would not be a taxi that would consent to enter this are and if they would finally take us they would not be willing to come back after us. The dental ambulance is a medical jewel. Inside has a dental chair and everything that a dental office would need, even XR, electricity with generator and everything else.



We went into this tribe and the village came up to the open area where they have all the events; they also have the school in this area. Well the school is made out of light wood that is tight together by some kind of strong leaves. The curiosity of this people is very strong. We concluded that this tribal people are living for pleasure and curiosity. They also have a church in the village, we learned. The difficulty we had was that they speak a dialect that is called chimani. Since we were not very prepared we had no translator and so communication with them was a great challenge. I set up to check their blood pressure and started checking it but they had no clue what I am doing. When I found a lady that her blood pressure was high just explain it was a challenge, than the other challenge was that I had nothing for high blood pressure, and even if I would have had, it would have been another challenge to entrust her to take the medicine. Than I realize that they would know the word pain in Spanish so I asked if they have any pain. Sure enough I would find some ladies with a back pain than I started doing massage, that would start them laugh, they were really amused by this. I was surprised after all that they let me touch them. Most of them had stomach pain, I realize that the pain is because of parasites, so I tried to explain them to use the papaya seeds for it. O! I had fun with them. Patty and the other dentist were really busy attending the people and the people would just come and come they finally had to refuse them so we would be able to leave before it would be dark there. One moment I went in the house areas just to see how they live and what they do, so I met a man, who later I find that is the village witch. Since he knew enough Spanish I tried conversing with him but was not much when I discovered that he was drunk. He asked me to take coca; in Bolivia Coca chewing is legal so you can find people all over chewing coca leaves. In order to fortify the potency of the coca leaf, they add bicarbonate and medicinal alcohol. I had a not nice conversation with him, later I understood that he has tree women that live with him in the same time.



It was a nice experience to see them and to see their needs. Here I have to mention that we had some Bibles prepared for them and since they were in Spanish I told them that is only for those that read Spanish, suddenly there were more than I could count that they would “read” Spanish. Well later on I saw one of the young man being curious enough to open the Bible and look at the letters, but dear he opened the Bible sideways and looked at the letters from top to bottom and if defining how nice those forms are. How shocking to find this. I could see that those precious Bibles becoming a design in the house until there would be used for who knows what. May the Lord work it’s perfect work in them.



The day we had to head home the mayors of different areas came to us and asked us to come back to visit their areas and all this areas are just opening up for us; we must use the offer as long that it stands. They also told us what they need. They need dentist, pediatrics and obstetricians. Well I get hooked now. I must learn more about prenatal care. I want to be prepared to help this people. This people who would seam to live with no purpose and bring nobody a benefit are still children of God.

Ellen White in Reflecting Christ says “ The value of a man is estimated in heaven, according to the capacity of the heart to know GOD.

Pray with me that God will make his work go further with rapidity and power.

