



YWAM MEDELLIN

www.ywammedellin.com

May 10 2010

House Update - Saved from a Tragedy

“God loves you sister, He has saved you from a tragedy,” these were the words that finally defined and gave reason to the chaos of the last few weeks. A few minutes earlier the engineer who is supervising the construction in our girl’s home had called me and asked me come quickly, “I have something I need to show you,” he said.

When we wrote in March, we shared how we had been visited by the Colombian government and informed that we needed to comply with new rules for children’s homes. Colombia has been upgrading its standards for earthquake resistant structures and social services has also added new standards for kitchens, bathrooms and dormitories. These new measures came into effect last October.



Imagine our surprise and dismay when, in February, we were informed of the new rules and that we would have 90 days to comply with them. Then, we received more bad news.

Our beautiful house is a 100 year old structure built from a material that is known as Tapia. The 60 cm (2 ft.) thick walls are formed of mud, manure and a wire mesh. It is a grand old design, but from the standpoint of earthquake resistance not one of the house’s walls qualifies or can be adapted to the standard.

In others words, we essentially have to demolish the house and rebuild – at 10 times the cost of simple renovations; approx \$250,000 USD. **Then the phone call.**

“Señora Enith, God has saved you from a tragedy.”

The engineer then proceeded to show me the roof of the room where our littlest girls sleep. For the last several months Colombia has been experiencing heavy rains and flooding. Daily cloudbursts have caused mudslides, houses have been washed away and in our case, the water had infiltrated and expanded the Bamboo and Tapia structure of the roof. At any given moment it was going to cave in on our girls, injuring or killing them.

As much as I had been complaining about the new rules, worrying about where we were going to get the money to pay for renovations and just plain being mad for yet another problem that needed to be resolved; God in His mercy had saved us. Without the new rules we would not have inspected the roof in time.

So, Where Does that Leave Us?

BLESSED! Since March we have received dozens of calls from all over. Our staff and children, wanting to provide the bread and fish for God to multiply, took up an offering. One Pastor has promised us the use of his church and is providing the food for a fundraising breakfast. Others are making crafts to sell. God is moving!



In faith, we have started the demolition and are trusting for God to provide for the reconstruction.

Yes, we still need approx \$225,000 USD to rebuild the house (and we have only a few months to do it), but our faith has been strengthened and we can see God’s hand.

Q & A

Q – So when exactly do you need to complete the reconstruction?

A- Well, the date is not exactly defined. One agency said that their follow up inspection could come in one month, six months or one year. The bottom line is, we have to continuously show that we are **SERIOUSLY** progressing in the work.



Q - Is there any way you can get more time or aid from the Colombian Government.

A - There is no way to get aid that we know of, but we have found that God has given us favour with several officials. They are helping to slow the legal process and give us more time.

Q - What about the children? Where are they?

A - In the meantime we have rented another house for the girls. When the construction is finished, the building will be two stories, one for the boys and one for the girls.

Q - Why don't you just stay in rented houses for now?

A- Even rented facilities would have to meet the same new standards. Either way we need to comply with them.

Q - Is all this effort really worth it?

A - Sometimes we ask ourselves the same question! Then we look at the fruit of our labour. In the last few years we have seen 18 of our children reintegrated into their own families. Two have become professionals. Then there are the hundreds that we have ministered to in the streets.

Add to this the thousands that we have led to the Lord through our Community Outreaches and the ten churches that we have planted. Yes, it is worth it, for Him anything.

Q - What about the money raised for the farm? Why don't you use it?

A - Well, we have used most of it; part of borrowed to complete the original house purchase, but it is not nearly enough for what we need.

Q – Do you have other events planned?

A- Yes! We will be sharing about them later.

Q - How can we help?

A - Give; of your resources, your time and your contacts.

\$225,000 USD sounds like a lot of money, but if 250 friends were to give us \$170 a month for the next six months, the need would be met.

Organize an event with your church, your friends or your Small Group. Have a garage sale, spaghetti supper, car wash or any other crazy idea that comes to mind!

Every little bit counts and we deeply appreciate your help!

Invite Us to Speak!

More than just having people available to speak in Colombia, one of our Communications staff (Darren McCrea) works from Ontario, Canada.

He is ready to travel in the US, Canada or Europe to share about our work in Medellin.



More Questions – Call Us!

In North America (English, Spanish)- Tel 305 677 0100.

In Colombia (Spanish) - Tel 574 216 1818

Donations - Please make your cheque out to "YWAM" and mail it to:

In the USA - YWAM – Accounting
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