



Using my gifts...



Incapable yet gifted ☺

In Bolivia, many simple things are done differently to the UK which means there are many things I don't know how to do here. It can be a little embarrassing! For example Viki (11) the youngest girl in El Alfarero needed to teach me the 'right' way to fry an egg, clean the floor & cut up a tomato! On the other hand, I now feel I know the routine enough to have more input into what is going on & use some of my gifts & experiences.

In El Alferaro, it was decided that we should give different staff member's responsibility for the areas of health, education, sport, nutrition, social relationships & spiritual life. I'm sharing responsibility for the spiritual life in the home. This means co-ordinating morning devotionals, weekly bible study groups, & anything else I can come up with! This weekend, with lots of help, I organised a special 'China night' (see picture). We ate Chinese food with chopsticks, learnt more about the country, prayed for the people of China & attempted to sing a Chinese worship song. The girls loved it!



Also this month, I was asked to cover for the lady who is responsible for Casa Girasoles, the girl's re-integration house, whilst she was away for two weeks. It was great to be able to use my experience of university to help the girls. I could help Darlin with her first university presentation & to organise a fun games night!

Life on the streets



I have worked a few times this month with the first contacts team, going out on the streets to find teenagers living there. We aim to get to know them, build up a relationship with them & give them an opportunity to come & live in the homes. We also want to be a positive presence on the streets, listening to the young people, & offering to pray for them.

Two experiences in particular this month have reminded me how critical this work is. Firstly, meeting Adriana, a 14 year old girl, semi-living on the streets, who has a 15 month old son (currently with her grandmother). I could just see how desperately she needed some kind of help. She said she wanted to

study again and I would really love her to be able to talk with the psychologist and the social worker who work in our homes.

The second experience which challenged me was chatting with 3 older girls (see picture), who have been living & working on the streets for many years. In the short time that we chatted we learnt of 3 young people who had been living on the streets & had died since we last spoke with them; one had been killed by other people living on the street & two others had died through illnesses. It reminded me how dangerous & unhealthy, life on the streets is & emphasised to me the importance of giving younger girls such as Adriana the chance to leave the streets.

Free time

I also have had some free time & have been able to do fun things! I went on a very long walk to a waterfall with two friends (see picture), have gone out for ice cream & have visited friends. I am going to the Bolivia church that I went to when I was living here before and have joined their 'cell group' for young women, which is basically a weekly prayer & bible study group.



Many thanks for all your support. It would be lovely to hear some of your news too: louise_feather@hotmail.co.uk