



A Guest in their Country



This month has been a weird mixture of both good and hard. I have been here quite a long time now, I know the routine and I think I have started to get a bit complacent.

I couldn't work out why inside I felt SO very offended when I was referred to a 'one of the gringitas (foreign girls)' in a way that implied I didn't have the same level of authority or competence as the other Bolivian staff.

It's a common phrase but something I hadn't heard myself be called, in that way, for a long time. I realized that

subconsciously I had developed the thinking 'I know what I am doing, and as an almost 'long-termer' I am worthy of

Photos: Some weekend routines in the girl's home. Making bread and *seriously* 'deep cleaning!' ☺

a different level of respect, I am capable! The girl's innocent comment broke this image for me.

It was great to chat this incident through with some other much longer-term missionary friends, they reminded me that, even if I lived in Bolivia for 20 years, I would always be a guest in their country and I must work from that perspective. It was as my friend talked that I realized I had developed this 'I am capable' self-image, and how wrong that it was! It was so refreshing to remind myself, yet again, I am weak, and I am totally incapable of bringing change or healing to anyone's life. Often I am even incapable of just living day to day life! I am totally dependent upon God and him working through me. He is more than capable of sustaining me and bringing change and healing not just in the girl's lives but in my life too!

In the weeks since this incident I have still felt insecure at times, *feeling like 'I can't do this,'* that is, be an authority in the girl's lives and in love, to correct and discipline them. At the same time, I have had some really obvious answers to prayer and seen God encouraging me about Him being in control.

It's fun to be a guest & guests make a difference!

The positive side of being in someone else's country is that you can see some really different and interesting things.

I have noticed recently many things initiated by people who were 'guests' with the ministry for a short time that are still affecting the teenagers today. For example, the boys are still having inter-dorm competitions for keeping their rooms tidy, girls are being taken for specialist counselling and one girl who left the ministry told me how she had shared with her son, in a time of personal crisis for him, a psalm that a team had shared with her years before. Praise God that He is working despite our weakness!



Photo 1: A pineapple plant we spotted in next doors garden,

Photo 2: Chirimoya. When I visited a friend recently she gave me a chirimoya from her tree for a dessert.

Thank you for your support. I would love to hear some of your news: louise_feather@hotmail.co.uk
More information about Operation Restoration can be found at www.ywambolivia.org.uk



Louise's Prayer Points

October 2013



Give Thanks

- We are continuing to get to know Nicol (our newest girl) deeper.
- I feel God is preparing me to leave (in Jan 2014) by providing people who might take over some of the specific things I have been doing whilst I was here.
- I am having the opportunity to give English & music (!) lessons in the home.
- We are building good relationships with many younger boys who live on the streets. Thank God that we have found new areas within the city where there are many younger street teenagers.

Prayer Needs

- For more staff and therefore more finances to support the staff (The boys' home currently has 18 boys. The guideline for the ratio of staff to children is 1 for every 10. We cannot go beyond 20 boys without recruiting at least 3 more male staff. And we know lots of young boys on the streets now)
- That Karina, one of the girls in the home, will be able to have her second child join us in the home in the next couple of months and that we will all be prepared for this.
- That God would be giving me a healthy sense of security and confidence in him. That He will help me to make the most of my last few months here and prepare me for coming home.