

GOD ALWAYS SHOWS HIS GRACE

I would like to share with you so many things, but it would be impossible to encompass every emotion that God gave me during this trip. In short, I can say that no matter where you are, God always shows His grace. Allow me to share a couple of examples:

When I was asked if I would like to go New Wilmington Mission Conference, my immediate answer was yes, although when the date approached, fear, doubts, and insecurity took over. I worried about going to a country I hardly know, talking about Frontera de Cristo in a language in which I'm not completely fluent, to a large number of people of different ages; I felt inadequate and unprepared. I remember the day we got on the plane, I still didn't completely understand what was going on, and the question that kept coming to mind was "Lord, why me...?"

When we arrived, I felt like it was obvious that I was nervous. Despite having our friends there with whom we had served last summer, nobody else knew us that first day. It was difficult to feel part of the place; it was a great challenge. But during one of the presentations, a pastor read a passage from 2 Timothy 1: "For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and self-control."

That passage spoke to me of how many times we feel insufficient. One of the things that the preacher said is that when we feel insufficient, we are denying the greatness of God in our lives and his purpose. At that moment, it was as if a bucket of cold water fell on me followed by a warm embrace telling me, "I will provide; in your insecurity and fear, I will give you strength."

Without a doubt God spoke to me. The following days also brought their own challenges, but each challenge had its answer: God is always with us. Little by little, people were getting to know us. When they approached, we thanked them that we could share how God is at work in the borderlands. Suddenly language no longer seemed like a huge barrier and that unknown place began to feel like a home. God never ceases to amaze me. Honestly, my greatest fear was the youngest group. I did not know how we could connect with them and help them understand what Frontera de Cristo is—they were only young children.

Although I had many doubts, they turned out to be the easiest group to talk with. The children opened their hearts, listened, and simply connected. We brought letters that the children of Frontera de Cristo's Children's Enrichment Ministry had written to the children of NWMC, and we asked them if they wanted to write letters back. When we explained the activity, the joy was evident in that room: each child took a letter, and despite great emotions and concerns that they did not know how to write in Spanish, each child answered his first letter, and without thinking they asked for more and more until they finished them. I was really surprised; these children left me speechless. God spoke and God worked. God works in amazing ways and blesses our lives with very special moments; there is no language more universal and beautiful than the love of God.

I thank God for this great opportunity and blessing to share His love that unites nations and hearts.

—Dafne Gastelum, representing Frontera de Cristo



