



Treasured Daughters...that's what these girls are. As we ended this group of "If You Were My Daughters..." I gave them a bracelet that was designed and given to them by a special friend (that's you Christie Murrow), and I told them that all the things I've taught them during these weeks, I've taught them in the same way I would have IF they were my own daughters, but the truth of our time together is that they ARE daughters of the MOST HIGH GOD, and HE treasures them. He brought them to this group to hear that they were not a mistake, a sin, unwanted, hopeless, or without value. He created them, lovingly and individually just like each one of these bracelets that they were being given. He knows their hearts, their dreams and their struggles. He longs for them, and loves them deeply, and wants them to come to Him always, no matter what has happened, and allow Him to meet their deepest needs. I taught them as if they were my daughters, but He receives them as HIS DAUGHTERS.



At the end, I asked them to write down anything they wanted prayer for, and as I have read over those requests, my heart breaks and longs for them to know God even more; to fall in love with a Father that is not like their earthly Fathers have been. He is not absent or uncaring and He has not abandoned them. The prayer requests were from hearts that long for love, long to be protected and long to truly believe they are treasured.

I told them if any of them wanted to do another class, and knew someone they wanted to bring with them, to sign up and almost all of them signed up to go through the class again. For some of them this would be their third time, and those that signed up also said they had someone they wanted to bring with them. I've also had girls coming to me after each Kid's Church asking when the next "If You Were My Daughter" class would be starting and letting me know they want to sign up.

So prayers are needed!!! Because I need to know how to design the classes where they can stay small (this last class was way too big) and still be able to allow as many girls to come who would like to come.



And then in Kid's Church news, this little guy amazed us all last Sunday. Every week Rebekah asks 5 review questions about last week's lesson. If the child can answer all the questions correctly, he or she gets to choose a prize out of the "Treasure Chest". We choose the children by picking numbers out of a basket that correspond with numbers on their notebooks. This

little guy's number was chosen. He is only 5 and we really didn't expect him to answer the questions, and there was a lot of laughing when he came up to the front from the kids in the crowd. But that mocking laughter was quickly turned to joyful laughs of amazement as he answered every single question correctly. I watched his older sister (she's also in my If You Were My Daughter group, and a sweet girl) just smile and give him a fist bump when he sat back down. I was also amazed that when he made his choice from the treasure chest, out of all the little toys, and water guns (which almost all the kids choose), he chose a book. Sometimes it's just the little things that keep you encouraged.

In other family news...Freeman is working hard in the day to day activity of the YWAM base. He is presently repairing vehicles and preparing for upcoming work projects. He is not doing an FCC class right now as anticipated, but very involved in other projects at present.

Caleb is currently translating for a visiting team, and he, Rebekah and April are preparing for the upcoming summer Dance Camps. They all have major staff roles in those camps. Caleb and April are also working hard to finish up school for this year, which means we will be celebrating Caleb's graduation from High School very soon.

In upcoming news...it's been 3 years since we have taken the whole family out of Haiti. Individually we have had some sporadic times away, but we have been encouraged to take a real break. So at the end of August, Freeman and I will be leaving to take a couple of weeks of "alone time" for rest. Then, our children will follow us to Florida after they finish with the last Dance Camp. We are planning to spend 8 to 10 weeks out, instead of the usual 6 weeks.

We plan to be in the Florida area during the month of September. What a lot of you may not know is that the reason it has been 3 years since we were last out together, aside from timing issues, is that it takes a lot of finances to have the whole family out for any length of time. There are airline tickets, gas, housing and food...and then we usually see dentists, doctors and eye doctors also while we are out.

So this time we are asking for help. Our first main need is transportation. The van we have used in the past, may or may not be available, however it's in Texas. We are planning to visit there because of my Dad and some needs that have arisen, but we won't be going there until October. If any of you know of a car or van or SUV we could use during our time in Florida in September, that would be great!

We really appreciate all that you do for us through your prayers and giving and the encouraging words you send. We pray that you are blessed and receive back one hundred fold!!!

If you have any questions, or comments, please feel free to write. We always enjoy hearing from you.

With Much Love,
Freeman, Shelly, Rebekah, Caleb and April