

Rising Star

News of some of the Lord's work in Northern Peru



December is always a busy month as we prepare a Christmas celebration that many of our children have not experienced in their short lives. They of course are increasingly excited as the time approaches. This year in the midst of the preparations we received the news of Carol's father passing into glory but due to the logistics involved we could not consider traveling until the Christmas rush was over. Christmas morning all the kids gathered in the dining hall for the reading of the Christmas story and to open their presents and enjoyed them the rest of the day.

Tom, Carol, Michaela and Oliver were scheduled to travel to Florida to spend a

short time with Carol's mother on the 27th, and Child Protective Services fulfilled their commitment to finding a foster family for Estefany, the pregnant 11-year-old who had been with us for a month and they picked her up just 30 minutes before our departure.

Sunday the 29th at 4:30 am, having just arrived in Florida we began getting phone calls from Lucy who had stayed at Morning Star. What came to light in the following 48 hours was that 4 of the adolescent girls had hatched a plan to run away once Christmas was over. Two sisters in House #3 ages 14 & 12 were to meet up with two others from House #1 at 3 am and make their "escape" having manage to extract some money from "petty cash" in the kitchen. The girl in House # 1 that was supposed to wake the other at the right time got cold feet and so they never showed up at the departure point, however the other two were joined at the last minute by a third girl age 10 from House #3, and they carried on with the plan. Within a couple of hours Lucy was at the police station reporting the unauthorized departure of the minors, however it had been raining, and power was out all over town so she had to return later to sign the papers, but the police didn't expect anything would be done as Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday were holidays and they were short staffed. New Years Day we were in touch with staff from the State run women's shelter in the town of Bagua where the two sisters are from, which is 6 hours by land from Morning Star. They spotted all three girls swimming in the local river and with their quick intervention and the cooperation of the local police all three girls were in custody by nightfall, and we'll be coordinating with the authorities as to their future placement. The other two teens have shown themselves in the last few days to be unmanageable and the plan is to turn them over to the Family Court Jan 2nd, as the court system has also been shut down since the 28th. The fact of the matter is that sometimes the environmental influences they have lived through are more deeply ingrained than can be dealt with in the time they spend at Morning Star and not everyone responds to God's truth as we pray they will. Ultimately their journey is determined by the Lord and we continue to pray that the seeds sown will someday bring forth fruit for the kingdom.

We are grateful we can continue to serve these delightful children and direct their attention towards a heavenly Father who loves and cares for them.

The Staff at Morningstar