



Easter is a time to reflect on the ultimate gift from God to Man manifest in the unthinkable-Christ's determination to suffer. The Greek Orthodox Church emphasizes Christ's Reign, Him on a throne, but we in the West see the Cross as the bench mark of our faith. It often brings out a deep streak of guilt that we are not living up to the standard Christ has shown us: to participate in his suffering and self giving.

Kathy relates below her struggles on Good Friday. The previous, Tuesday during our Team Tijuana meeting, many leaders related similar feelings of inadequacy. It was good the study was on "blessed are the poor in spirit" which emphasized the need to confess our own spiritual bankruptcy so God can work through us.

It is encouraging to see team members, feeding the poor, giving aid to the sick (Arturo's operation may allow him to actually move or at least feel legs which he has not used for a decade of being a paraplegic-see attachment). Teaching the Easter story to children (attachment), helping women start business to feed their children, and giving hope to those with addictions and in prison by witnessing the good news that God can give them a future.

But back to Kathy—

I want to say that this has been an amazing Good Friday for me. I woke up feeling overwhelmed by guilt for all the things I haven't done that I should, for my selfishness and laziness-- and the list went on and on...but when I confessed them, acknowledging that I truly am a terrible rotten sinner and in need of a washing that

only Jesus can do, I couldn't stop crying. Because of the cross, I know Jesus has forgiven me; I sobbed and wept and wrote over my list "FORGIVEN." And then I needed to stop by church to pick up stuff for Mexico and ran into the pastor. When I mentioned my need for God to help me tell the story Easter at the Kids Club, he and the secretary stopped and prayed God to speak through me and for the children to pay attention.

God answered! The Spirit helped me and the kids actually listened and respond despite competition from a baby and a toddler and a chicken who got into the classroom just as I was telling about Peter denying Christ right before the rooster crowed--and then a rooster outside actually did crow! The message got through and children prayed to receive Christ. Don't you love those days when God makes a plan come together sets up divine appointments? It's fun and brings joy to you and to others! Don't you wish every day would be like that? I do!

Happy Easter--the song that has been running through my head all day has the chorus that goes, "Thank you for the cross, thank you for the cross..." Where would we be without it?!

Love you all,

Kathy