



The Dan THOMPSON Family

Serving GMSA Camps in Chile

May 2008

God at Work Through Camp Ministry

A little while ago we asked our Pastor, Ivan Reyes to share his personal testimony with you. Here is a translation of what he wrote:

Toward the end of 1990 I fell into a deep depression that lasted till 1993. Two sad events marked my life for those three years. This created among other things a total loss of desire to live. My life didn't have meaning or purpose. During those three years of total desperation and disillusionment, the days were unending and the nights eternal. I felt like I was literally in a miry pit of desperation. Back then I had heard several times of Jesus, and His work on the cross. For about six years I had been sporadically visiting an evangelical church in the area where I lived, yet I had never experienced the urgent need to give my life to Christ. During this time my depression got worse, to the point of feeling a strong desire to take my life. This gave way to two attempts which by the grace of God did not come to fruition.

When the nights got more intense and the situation seemed hopeless, one evening I attended a youth meeting at the church I had visited sporadically. At the end of the meeting the young people started to talk about a spiritual retreat during the independence day holidays. They asked who would be interested in going. I thought it would be interesting to spend my holidays differently than other years. I normally went to a discotheque with my friends. I asked if I could go and they said yes, so I decided to go.

When the time came, I traveled the 90km from where I lived to Camp Lican-Ray, located in a rural lake setting.

The first day of the retreat was long, tedious, and confusing. I didn't understand the teens and I was disillusioned by the type of Christianity that I saw, which was different than what I had seen at Church. I decided to go home, but since it was late I would have to wait till the next day.

SO-THOMPSON-RETREATS

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That evening we had the Bible service and the pastor preached on the parable of the prodigal son. He entitled his message "The parable of the out-of-place teen". During the preaching I started to identify with every detail of this teen's life, and the conviction of sin was so intense and my need so urgent that I bowed my head and cried to God to save me because I was totally lost.

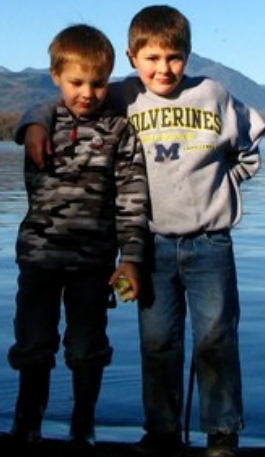
The change was so extraordinary that I went from one second wanting to die to the next wanting to live. One year after this I was back at the same camp and the Lord began the process of calling me to ministry which finally ended in my attending Bible institute in 1996 and finishing my studies in 1999. Since then I have been serving as a Pastor of the Union of Bible Centers, and currently serving as president for the association that works throughout Chile.



Pastor Ivan Reyes

We would like to thank each and everyone of you who has prayed for us during these last six months in Chile.

Rejoice with us as we share with you how God answered some very specific prayers this month.



- Liz was granted her **temporary residence card**
- The paperwork for the **kids' Chilean citizenship** is in process
- Chilean Church leadership approved the plans for a **parking lot, children's playground,** and the **new cabins**— Pray for the permit process to go smoothly
- Morgan turned 2 on May 21st and Micah turned 6 years old on the 18th of June. We praise God for giving them another year of life – **Pray for all three kids that they would make a decision for salvation**
- We also celebrated **7 years of marriage** on May 19th. — Pray that our marriage would glorify the Lord as we serve together in Chile

Thank you for the many cards we received this last month. They were an encouragement to us. May the Lord richly bless you and use you mightily in His service,

Dan. and Elizabeth

Micah, Matthias and Morgan