



August 18, 2015

Friends of the ministry:

This last Wednesday at the Community Center was challenging, but also very rewarding. We often have conflicts between youth, sometimes resulting in physical altercations. For the last eight months, we have been blessed with no fighting, until this last Wednesday. Shortly after lunch, Jorge and Luiz had a verbal confrontation, which quickly escalated into a wrestling match. By the time I arrived at the scene, they were in a bear hug in the bathroom. With the help of Lucas, who does our Bible Studies, we managed to break them apart. Though they were still verbally abusive and threatening, we managed to keep them separated. Jorge, in spite of my repeated requests, would not stop the verbal threats. Lucas kept Luiz upstairs, where he was joined by one of our Christian Counselors, Billie. Together they tried to calm him down. I took Jorge downstairs, and because he would not calm down, I asked him to leave. He stormed out of the Center, slamming the front door as he left, resulting in the door stop being separated from the door, the door glass being broken.

This is where GOD intervened. Luiz, learning that Jorge had left started to leave, to find Jorge and finish the fight. Billie and Lucas managed to stop Luiz and talk to him. They reminded him that he was currently on probation, and if he got in a fight, his probation would be revoked and he would be sentenced to 2-6 years in prison. This got his attention, and they moved him away from the other youth. Billie then talked about various ways to react when angry, and how to control that anger. At one point, he ran out of the center and started to go after Jorge. Lucas managed to stop him and brought him back to the Center.

Billie and Lucas then talked about GOD and His role in our lives, and about how faith can help us in times of stress. If we surrender our anger to GOD, we will find a peace that calms our soul. This ended with the three of them praying, and Luiz apologizing for starting this confrontation.

The point of this is that because of Lucas, his love for these youth, his ability to understand their emotions, and to communicate in their language; and Billie's love and GOD given talent to help them understand their feelings and the potential consequences; instead of potentially having two young men injured, arrested, and spending time in jail/prison; we have one young man who took a step closer to GOD, and another who I plan to work with in the next few weeks. GOD has blessed Refuge Center with volunteers who have the talent and strength of faith to change the lives of these street youth.

Please continue to pray for this ministry and the street youth of Denver.

Thanks and GOD Bless,

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