

News from New Horizons,

In our school, we are developing evangelistic teams of students. Pastor Wil Davenport and four others came representing our Samaritan Hands Office and Fairview UMC of Maryville, TN. We had an awesome time sharing God's love with hundreds. We shared in two local public schools with skits, songs, dances and a message of God wanting all to do our best for Him and that the best we can give Jesus is ourselves.

Our students are learning that their struggles of life against addictions, depression, abuse, and much more is a spiritual battle as explained in Ephesians 6:12:

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” They have developed many skits to depict this battle to share with other youth and how with Christ, they can be victorious. “We are human, but we don't wage war with human plans and methods. We use God's mighty weapons, not mere worldly weapons, to knock down the Devil's strongholds... breaking down every proud argument that keeps people from knowing God... conquering their rebellious ideas, and we teach them to obey Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. I get really emotional when I see our students sharing boldly about their faith.

Our eighth graders with the help of their music and creative arts teacher, did an outstanding skit for the parent meeting and for our school's Easter chapel services. It was a young man who sacrificially gave up everything including his life for others; then with a short power point, they showed how his love was a small reflection of Jesus' love for us. One evening Pastor Wil shared with our school parents and about 40 or 50 came forward when our school pastor, Alcides did an altar call. For the students, Pastor Wil's son challenged each to give their best. It was inspiring for our students to see and hear a sixth grader speaking with such wisdom and authority. We thank Pastor Wil and his team for coming and for all the donations received from our brothers and sisters of Fairview UMC. Thank you all so much. May God bless each of you.

This week the school is off for Easter break but we have been quite busy with many projects at the school and in the church. I did take time Sunday evening to host a sleepover for my two precious God daughters, Antonella and Tali. I do not know how two little girls, one almost 5 and the other 6 years old, can have so much energy. I call the events “sleepovers” (meaning we should sleep); they call the event a Pjama party which means they want to pull an all-nighter...I am afraid I am too old for that! But we had a great time and the girls learned how to make pizza...of which they only wanted to eat the pepperoni and cheese. Thank goodness my dog, Tulu, enjoyed the pizza shells.

I want to ask for your continued prayers as so many are sick with Dengue and colds. In the area schools and hospitals, they are now not asking “who has Dengue in Lambare” (our city); but “who does not?” In our third grade class, 15 of 56 children have been diagnosed with Dengue this year so far. Dengue starts with the various symptoms of a viral illness. Some have it very mild and others can be so severe it requires hospitalization or can lead to death. The symptoms include: runny nose, cough, a mild skin rash, a high fever, pain behind the eyes and in the joints, backaches and headaches, a red and white patchy skin rash, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, itchiness on the soles of the feet and very weak, easily fatigued. Please pray that this epidemic will soon be passing. Please pray that God will provide a speedy recovery especially for missionaries Pastor Robert and Joy Varga who are scheduled to leave for the US on Monday.

As I close, thank you for continued prayers for our school, the students, and the various needs. Please rejoice with us that on April 6th, we will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Methodist church in Paraguay. There are now over 40 churches. Tentatively, we are having the celebration in our multipurpose building so we are trying to get the stage and front area painted and ready. Please pray as we prepare for that special day to reflect on what God has done, what He is currently doing and where He is taking us.

May you and your family have a blessed Easter. May you focus on **Colossians 1:13-14**, “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Love in Christ our Lord and Savior,
Sue Givens
Director of New Horizon School