

elduoD Double

Blessing

The Micah Project

April Update

Have you every had one of those moments where you were so pleasantly surprised by something or someone that you did a double take...and then had to rub your eyes to make sure that you weren't just seeing things?

Well, that's the first reaction I had when I met the gemelos—the twins. Luis and Maicol (pronounced Michael) Coban sprang into our lives the way a fast-moving spring storm dumps rain on you before you even have a chance to open your umbrella. At first, I thought that this double whammy of energy and movement may actually have been sextuplets since it was hard to get them to sit still for long enough to figure out who was who. They weren't a part of our lives—then they most definitely, most energetically WERE.



The raucous fun that the twins bring almost makes you forget where they came from. Their mom left them several years ago when she went up to the States illegally to look for work. She eventually remarried, had new kids and forgot to keep calling home. They moved in with an aunt who already had a house-full of children that were not her own...and who was not actually looking for two more boys. Their dad was also an occasional resident at that house...although his own problems and drifting nature did not make him an especially stable presence in the lives of his boys.



But their unrelenting positivity made it easy to forget all that. One reminder of their past is their cousin Marvincito, who grew up in the same house they did, because his mom, too, left for the States and disappeared. He has been back on the streets for over a year after living with us for two years, and is so high on yellow glue now that whenever we see him he barely recognizes us. How is it that boys growing up in the exact same circumstances can have such a radically different outlook on life?

While we weren't so sure at first, we have now come to view the noisy, hyper-kinetic joy of the twins as a double blessing. They bless the other boys in the Micah house by modeling for them that, no matter how hard it gets, that it is still worth it to keep moving forward. And they bless us...those of us who pour our lives into theirs, by their total desire to receive what we offer them each and every day.

Since we are already full, our original plan was to formally accept them into the Micah Project once we had moved into our new facility that we are getting ready to build out by the Villa Linda Miller community. For many months, the twins show up at our front door early in the morning, and have to be ushered back out just before bedtime so that they can make their way home. They look forward to Fridays every week because they are allowed to stay over night on the weekends!

This past Wednesday, the twins' father appeared at our door. He was clutching a piece of driftwood that he had fashioned into a snake, and was trying to sell it around the neighborhood to make a few centavos to get

through the day. He looked like a man who had been beaten down by life, but he still had a sincerity and intelligence about him that helped me to get a glimpse into how the twins had developed their own personalities. With tears in his eyes, he was explaining that he was leaving town, and perhaps even the country, in search of a job. He begged me to take the twins in permanently so that they would not end up on the streets.

Through his tears, he said at one point, "my twins were born premature...I remember holding their tiny, undeveloped bodies in the palm of each of my hands. I prayed for them that day...I prayed as hard as I ever had...that they would grow up to be men that would avoid all the mistakes that I had made."

So even though the twins have been a part of our lives for a while, this is really week one for them. We are excited to see how God will continue to bless them in the years to come, even as they continue to doubly bless us!



One of the things that blesses me the most as a missionary is watching God work to transform lives and to see his gracious provision for our ministry and our boys. Lately, the boys have been in a really good place. The nature of our ministry means that we will often go through times that are more defined by crisis than anything else, but currently, the Micah House is defined by purpose and growth. Even our youngest and rawest guys are beginning to make their own positive decisions. They are getting more involved in their church's youth group and are still happily writing and producing songs about their personal testimonies. There have been less interpersonal conflicts in the daily routine of the Micah House and more seriousness of purpose. This has been a true blessing for our staff, because it gives us more energy to push through the long hours and days that this ministry entails.

Two more blessings to report lately. Thanks to a generous donation, our Micah Moms group is about to open a micro-enterprise: the Mama Jo Bakery! They are going to be making cinnamon rolls, scones and...BAGELS (!!!!!) to sell to the bagel-starved citizens of Tegucigalpa (can you tell what my preference is??). Natasha and Megan have been helping the ladies get everything planned for the big launch, and I have had the blessing of being the bagel-tester as they work to perfect their recipe (today's attempt at cinnamon-raisin bagels went really, really well!). To read more about the Mama Jo Bakery, check out Natasha's blog: <http://wigg-family.blogspot.com/2011/04/100-posts.html>.

A second HUGE blessing is that we are very close to purchasing seven acres of land to build the new Micah Project facility. We have been negotiating a price with the owners for several months now and are getting close to an agreement (flat land near Tegucigalpa is rare and expensive, by the way; we will probably end up paying around \$160,000 for the property). In the meantime, we have received several generous donations for the property and have been able to raise almost the entire amount. Praise God!

A final blessing that lifts us up on a daily basis is...YOU! You all are a constant encouragement to us and I know that your prayers are the foundation on which our boys are growing. We try to live our lives as a doxology of praise to the One who sustains us through his love. Your love to our boys and us definitely brings us to our knees in praise to Him. ¡Gracias!

I hope that all of these blessings...including the funny, boisterous, hope-filled twins...are a blessing to you as well.

Su hermano en Cristo.

Michael Miller

P.S. If you want to learn more about what happens to children when their parents leave them to go work in the States, read Enrique's Journey, by Sonia Nazario.