



MISSION NEWS

ZUNI CHRISTIAN SCHOOL – ZUNI, NM

12-11

It was “one of those days”. I taught the first graders their math lesson and sent them to their desks with an assignment. As I worked with the second graders in a circle on the rug, I overheard Percilla Chimoni, our educational assistant, again explaining the math to two first grade girls. After I finished, I called each to me and one at a time, gave them more practice with the concept they found hard. And what do you know? Minutes later, I heard Percilla again walking the girls through the steps of their math. There was an edge of justified impatience in her voice. I went over to her and said to the class, “I think Mrs. Chimoni needs a hug.” We all laughed as I hugged her. She continued tutoring the bewildered twosome, but the girls still didn’t understand. Awhile later Mrs. Chimoni took a group to the library and I knelt beside the struggling pair. After a few minutes of fruitless effort, I wailed to the kids, “Now I need a hug!” They swarmed me hugging and laughing. When they had returned to their desks and I was refocused on helping the two, a child called out, “Now can we cheer?” “Not yet!” I told her.

I told the story to a colleague and suddenly recognized that this small classroom vignette is a picture of our ministry in our community. These December days when Zuni traditional religious ceremonial life consumes the hearts, minds and resources of the entire community, it sometimes seems to us as Christians that we stand helplessly (with a touch of impatience?) alongside our students, their families, our friends and neighbors explaining over and over again the Truth of the Gospel. Daily, we tell our children the story of Jesus. Daily, the Christians in Zuni come alongside people to be the hands and heart of the Lord. In word and deed, prayer and praise, Christ is proclaimed. Like baffled teachers who wonder, “How can we make this clearer? Why don’t they ‘get it?’” We who have seen the Light of Christ wonder why those we love settle for darkness. Why such a dogged pursuit of ‘other gods?’ Then from out of God’s merciful storehouse comes the consoling encouragement of prayer--your prayers, our prayers for each other, the Holy Spirit’s prayers for us all.

So we ask you to pray for us. Pray for the salvation of souls in the Zuni Pueblo. Pray for the Glory of the Lord to be revealed.

Looking back on that afternoon in my classroom, when the question “Now can we cheer?” was asked, I wish I had said, “Yes.” I wish I had acknowledged the gift of seeking minds, the gift of persistent teachers, the gift of an encouraging company. I didn’t then, but I do so now. Raise a cheer, good Christian men and women! In the town of Zuni, there are many whose empty hurting hearts seek the Truth; there are bold and faithful witnesses to the Gospel; there is the beauty of your sustaining prayers; there is the patient work of the Holy Spirit.

Kathy Bosscher, Principal

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