



# Hands for the Lord

All praise and glory be to God the Father for all that has happened in the past month. I cannot believe that I've already been here a month; time just flies too quickly. The transition here has been fairly smooth for me, and I am quite settled into a routine for each week. Every child here makes each new day quite an adventure, but one that I'm so happy to be involved in.

My main responsibility is to teach a four year old boy who came to the school with no sign language knowledge, a super-short attention span, and little to no self-discipline. He didn't even know his own name (Saúl). But in just the last two weeks, he has become fluent with the words 'please', 'thank-you', 'help', and many other essential words.

(And he is beginning to recognize his own name too!) He is now also able to count to three all by himself, and he will stay with one activity for almost 45 minutes, if it interests him enough. :) It's been so encouraging to see his quick progress, and I cannot wait to see what God has in store for this little boy.

The other day we watched a movie about Jesus. The video was acted out with sign language and quickly grabbed the attention of the five elementary students. Christ's ministry on earth, his crucifixion, and resurrection were portrayed in the video, and afterward we were able to have a little discussion with the students about Jesus and what He did for them. Though there were not any decisions made that day, it was obvi-

ous that the children were thinking deeply. And their thinking about it was made even more evident when during play time, they would basically act out the crucifixion by nailing one of the boys to the "cross" and then "stabbing" him with a spear in his side. They understand what Christ did; now we are praying that they will understand why.

We have also been studying the life of Moses in Bible class, and using the Ten Commandments has been very helpful in showing each child's need of a Savior.

A typical day would start with flag pole, where we recite the pledge of allegiance (in sign, of course); then we head to chapel where we sing songs and pray. Then it's off to class.



We will break for snack at 9:45 then recess till 10:30. After some more seat work, we have lunch, and then finish the day with reading in the library, more seat work, and a special sign video or computer time. At 3:30 the children go home, and the rest of the day is spent in my own personal Bible study, staff devotions/prayer, exercising time, etc.

As staff, we meet two times

a week, and we are studying a book called *Ordering Your Private World* by Gordon MacDonald. It's been a very helpful book to help me stay organized and using my time profitably.

I want to thank all of you who support me financially prayerfully. God is certainly using you to reach children here in Puerto Rico! May God bless you for your willing hearts and giving spirits.

I do try to weekly write on a blog online. The link is [www.handsforthelord.blogspot.com](http://www.handsforthelord.blogspot.com)

Please check there often for more updates and pictures. Also my address here is HC-01 Buzon 7111 Luquillo, Pr 00773 (u.s. postage!!!)

Thanks again and God Bless!

In Christ,

Stefanie Beals