

The Table

Mission Trip Impact by Bobbi Kinne

For I was hungry and you gave me food,whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Mt 25

At Family Missions Company, they live by those words. No one went away hungry. Even if there was nothing else we could do to help the people who knocked on the door, we fed them. Between meals, we raided the refrigerator and handed out ziplock bags of cold pancakes, eggs, beans, rice, even soup or other left-overs. At almost every meal, Sheila or Alyse, the FMC missionaries, brought someone into the dining room to share our meal. Usually the visitors were ill-at-ease at being left in the middle of a bunch of Americans. Everyone was very welcoming, but you could see how embarrassed they were—and how hungry.

The woman pictured below is the one I'll never forget. She came one morning with her 4-year old daughter and her young son who was covered in chicken pox. She was hoping for some medication that would relieve his itching. And they were hungry. Sheila brought the little family into the dining room and sat them with my husband John and me, who speak some Spanish. Usually people would talk with us as we ate together, but this mother kept her eyes on her children and her plate. Her sick little guy couldn't drink the hot coffee-milk or tolerate the crusty French toast, so she answered my questions about the food I suggested that might appeal to him, but other than that she was very, very quiet as she and her children ate.

When someone asks me about the mission trip I think of her. I think of her sitting across the table from me watching her daughter happily pour lots and lots of syrup on her French toast. I think of her trying to find a bite of food her little guy could chew. I think of the quite way she thanked us after breakfast. But mostly I think of seeing her the next morning. As I was leaving the mission house, she was walking toward it, holding her daughter's hand and carrying her son, with an expression of hope on her face.

I ask for anyone who reads this to pray for mothers and for missionaries.

