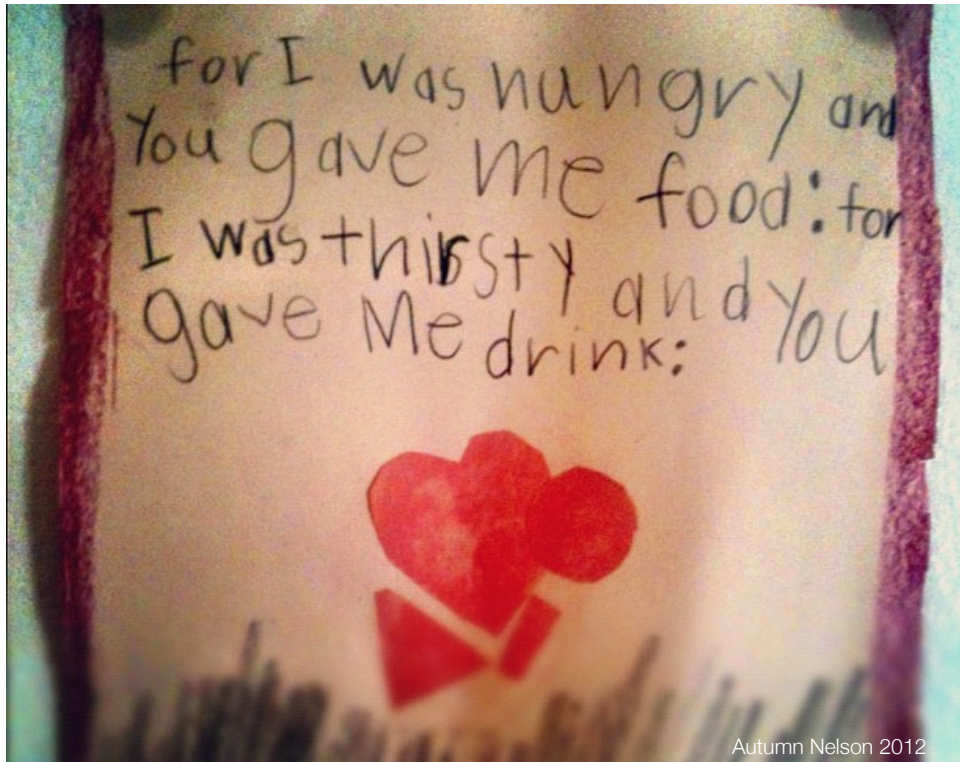


July 2012

Matthew
25:31-46

4 yr old
Autumn
gets it!



voiceofthebride.net

Autumn Nelson 2012

Over the years, we have been asked on many occasions, "Why don't you just help people here in the U.S.? There are many needs here!" And while that is certainly true, a day on a mission trip to Mexico, many years ago, might explain why we are doing this particular work:

Wayne and I were on a mission trip, fresh out of Bible College, with a group called Joshua's Army. We were in the state of Chihuahua City, in central Mexico. On one of our last days out, the team decided to do a little mountain climbing, just for fun. The climbing of the mountain, ended up being far more difficult than any of us could have grasped. As we reached the top of the mountain, we all sat down, gasping for air. Suddenly, over the other side of the mountain, a man appeared. He also, had been hiking up to the summit. As the man arrived to the top, our group said hello, and started chatting with him. By the time our group had to leave, this man received prayer and had given his life to the Lord!!

On the way up the mountain, as it was so very difficult to climb, I began asking myself, why in the world we had decided to do this. It made no sense, really!! Afterwards, as we arrived back to our camp that night, the Lord began to speak to me. He told me that the world, to HIM, is as small as a postage stamp. And to Him, sending us several thousand miles away, to lead someone to Jesus, was no big deal. It made perfect sense in the way that GOD thinks about things. And so, when asked why we do this work in Mexico, or why we do

worship with a purpose of praying and interceding for others, thousands of miles away, we just say, 'because that's what Jesus wants us to do'.... Simple. He will send us anywhere He chooses. It is not really up to us. But, if we are obedient, He will use us in the most effective way possible. I came across a quote the other day, which, I think, sums this up nicely:

"We must exercise the greatest care to be utterly obedient to Him who sees all the battlefield all the time. It is only He who can put each man in the place where his life can count for the most." Praying John Hyde

Though, I (Wayne) do not usually pay too much attention to those who want to inquire about why I (or why I shouldn't) take food to people in Mexico, I think, along with Autumn and her illustration above, Keith Green says it best in the lyrics of his song "Sheep and the goats".

(paraphrased) "To the sheep the Lord said 'For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was naked, and you clothed me, I was a stranger, and you invited me in, I was sick, and I was in prison, and you came to me. Thank you! Enter into your rest.

He told them, "In as much as you did it to the least of my brethren, you've done it unto me."

But to the goats the Lord said, 'For I was hungry, and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink, I was naked, out in the cold, in exposure, and you sent me away, I was a stranger, and I knocked at your door, But you didn't open, you told me to go away, I was sick, racked in

pain upon my bed, And I begged, and prayed, and pleaded that you'd come, but you didn't, I was in prison, and I rotted there, I'd prayed that you'd come. I heard your programs on the radio, I read your magazines, but you never came. Depart from me!!"

Lord, there must be some mistake, when? Lord, I mean, when were you hungry Lord and we didn't give you something to eat? And Lord, when were you thirsty, and we didn't give you drink? I mean, that's not fair, well, would you like something now? Would one of the Angels like to go out and get the Lord a hamburger and a coke? Oh, you're not hungry, yeah, I lost my appetite too. Uh Lord uh, when were you naked, I mean Lord, that's not fair either Lord, We didn't know what size you wear. Oh Lord, when were you a stranger Lord, You weren't one of those creepy people who used to come to the door, were you? Oh Lord, that wasn't our ministry Lord. We just didn't feel led, you know? Lord, when were you sick? What did you have, anyway? Well, at least it wasn't fatal; oh, it was? I'm sorry Lord, I would have sent you a card. Lord, just one last thing we want to know, When were you in prison Lord? What were you in for anyway? I had a friend in Leavenworth... ENOUGH!!!

In as much as you've not done it unto the least of my brethren, You've not done it unto me. Depart from Me. And these shall go away into everlasting fire. But the righteous into eternal life! And my friends, the only difference between the sheep and the goats, according to this scripture, is what they did, and didn't do!!"

[Visit our friend and VOB partner Melody's site www.lastdaysministries.com for more of Keith's messages and resources. He has been in heaven 30 years this month!]