

Vision Beyond Borders

VISION FOR CHILDREN

Miss Emerald's Home

WRITTEN BY PATRICK KLEIN

Recently I had the opportunity to spend a few hours with Miss Emerald, who is currently on bed rest. She is suffering from heart disease. The children take turns coming up to her room, they massage her feet to get the circulation going and they also pray with her. She was a joy to sit and talk to; she shared many stories about her grandmother starting the orphanage over 100 years ago. She shared about God's provision. She told me about how widows would show up at her door asking for food and she would joyfully share their food with the widows and orphans at her gate. The kids would say, "Please don't give all our food away!" She shared that she would give the food away and it never failed how God would provide the very next day, with an equal or greater amount.

She told me how they built the house and it took five years. She said they called the workers back to do more work as the funds came in. Her simple trusting faith really blessed me as I sat next to her and heard her testimonies of God's faithfulness. I felt like I could listen to her for days. I told her stories of delivering Bibles in closed countries, how Cuban Christians love and pray for her. She was blessed to hear how generous Christians in America are to build a new orphanage for the kids. She expressed her gratitude repeatedly, saying, "Please tell everyone I pray for them and that I love them."

I shared with her about Pastors in China enduring much persecution, and about things happening around the world in God's Church and I could tell it gave her more things to pray about. I was able to pray with her before we left and I could tell she's at peace knowing that the children will be taken care of after her passing. Her daughter-in-law assured us that she will make sure the kids are taken care of and that they will finish their education.

I feel humbled and honored to know Ms. Emerald for over 15 years. Her bedroom is very simple with two wooden wardrobes and a picture of her in her younger years. What stood out most of all was the picture of Jesus washing the disciple's feet on the wall. I thought she really embodies that picture showing the servant heart of Jesus. I am blessed by her humility and I felt was in the presence of a modern day saint. You will never see her picture on a Christian magazine or television program but Jesus knows her name and hears her prayers.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

MATTHEW 19:14

