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APRIL 2014 I ASKED THE GROUP IN THE PRISON, “HOW MANY OF you were grown up as an orphan.” There were fourteen in the group at the meeting that day and two said that they were orphans.

So last month I had a Youth With A Mission team from a variety of nations and one student from Switzerland who shared her testimony of being an orphan for twelve years. Her name is Teresa and she said told how she was taken from home to home until a loving family adopted her. She told the prisoners that she was no longer an orphan for two reasons: One, a loving family had wanted her and adopted her; and the second reason is that the God of love had also wanted her and adopted her as His own.

Just as we were leaving the prison gate, the director called us to the office. “The general (Noriega) would like to meet all the mission team before you leave.”

The team were excited about going to meet him because they had actually been praying the evening before about this possibility of sharing the Lord with him. Several of the team had sensed specific Scripture verses and words of prayer that they believed were directed just for him. One of those team members was Teresa.

The nine member team gathered around his quarters and sang songs of worship and praise. Then one by one five team members shared encouraging words to the former general. He was listening very clearly. Just to make sure that he remembered what was being said, each encouraging word was written down.

Just before Teresa shared to speak, I mentioned to Noriega that this girl had been an orphan for twelve years. He then gave her especial attention.

Teresa's words were very specific to share about the love of God and how much it meant to the Lord to give her meaning and eternal life. She took his hand (I had told the students not to try to touch him) and the guards were watching, as she prayed very simply how to receive the love of Christ and eternal life.

Then it was time to leave. These forty-five minutes were powerful. All the students were shaking hands and then suddenly...Teresa reached out to hug the general. It was a tense moment to see this...what would the response be? But he reached out to Teresa... two times. The orphan girl had touched his heart.

Tax deduction gifts can be written to: Gamboa Union Ministries; Syd Corbett; 231 SE 45 th Terrace; Ocala, Fl 34471 Thank you for all your support! Pastor Bill