

## *Steps for a New Year*

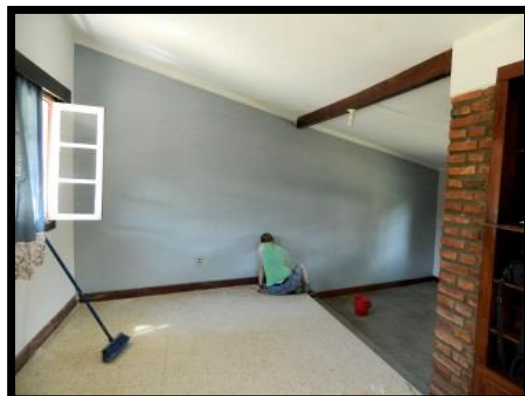
As this New Year rolled around, instead of only thinking about 2014, I started thinking about two years ago. Two years ago on New Year's Eve, three ladies and I traveled to Monte Blanco Camp in Bolivia. It was my third trip there. It was also the last time I have been there.

Although this trip only lasted 10 days, we felt we were able to accomplish what God had planned for us. Initially the plan had been to work with the horses and run a horse day camp for children in a nearby orphanage. However, as often happens, God had more in store for us.

We were unable to complete arrangements for hosting the kids at camp, so we visited them on their "turf". Instead of showing the children what we knew about horses, we were humbled and filled with joy as they sang and played musical instruments, demonstrating with pride what they knew. The smiles of children when they ride horses for the first time often feel priceless to me, but seeing the smiles and puffed-up chests of the Bolivian children being able to show off what they had worked on diligently, was even better. **God knew that all along though!**

We also repainted the interior of a small adobe house at Camp which hadn't been used for some time. A plain looking one-bedroom home with cracks in the plaster walls and ceiling became transformed into an inviting, comfortable living space. At that time, we did not know that the head cook at camp would soon need to live there. We knew it needed a face-lift but not for whom. **God knew all along though.**

These two stories are examples of what God is doing every day in everyone – giving us hints and small insights into His plan. They are just enough to get us to move, to act, to give, to love. We sometimes don't get to see the full picture because the full picture would make us balk or hide in fear of its impossibility or because of our lack of comprehension. But after we take one small step, or a few; the bigger picture starts unfolding in ways we can accept and understand. The marvelousness of what God can do with small steps from willing hearts reveals itself.



What step or steps is God putting on your heart this year? Are you questioning them? Are you trying to feel the ground in front of you before you step? Or are you stepping boldly and confidently forward?

As I wrote in my last letter, 2014 led me to taking steps I had not anticipated. My journey has been filled with many blessings and trials. Still there remains a string being tugged within my heart to be able to minister full-time at Monte Blanco with the talents and training God has given me. While I have enjoyed and felt blessed to paint rooms, sew clothing and curtains, serve meals, etc., my strongest desire still remains to help the staff at Monte Blanco learn how to minister through the development of new programs. I ask that you pray about partnering financially with me so I can take that step.

Steps I am taking while I wait on full financial support include:

1. Continuing to work as the head wrangler and summer camp horsemanship director at Palomar Christian Conference Center in California,
2. Learning Spanish (please pray for me to reach my goal of memorizing Romans chapter 5 in Spanish and being conversational by fall),
3. Going on short-term trips to Bolivia, and
4. Growing in my knowledge of God's word and relationship with Him.

Blessings,

*Jamie*



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