



GLC WEEKLY

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Great Ministry to Women, Children & Families

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We had an exceptionally fulfilling day in Ecuador two days after President Guillermo Lasso partially approved abortion in cases of rape. We visited the Sembrar [sowing seeds] Foundation ministry to women, children, youth, and families in one of the most difficult areas of Quito (built up from an invasion of those lands). In recent weeks, we had the honor of being with Stefy Famlonga – who has led this ministry in Ecuador for 18 years – and a few of her noble staff members, including Alex and Daniela. They asked us to visit their mission. Before we came, Daniela shared with the children in the picture that I (Thomas) came by airplane from another country and was coming to visit them. She had the children create artwork for me, and they wanted to be sure I knew it was their handprints. Some of these children live in very vulnerable circumstances. They were so warm and affectionate, and as I was hugging them, Isabel Maria commented: “This is why we do what we do!” And I said: “Yes it is!”

We met very young mothers and their little children, some who became pregnant before age 18, and were part of a program of home education nurseries for the neighborhood. They were in a class being mentored by another woman who had been through the program with her children years before. Alex and the older children whom he works with showed us their wood shop and the wood projects and furniture they create. Another team works with students, helping with their homework. Also, there is a team of women who work with hundreds of mothers, fathers, and their children, including visiting their homes once a month. They shared how they teach relationship and parenting skills, as well as financial budgeting. Two of these women shared about the abuse they suffered from their own husbands, which was painful to hear, and they had different outcomes. Walking together and sharing their problems with other women really helped. One was able to recognize that her complaining behavior was enlarging the problems with her abusive husband. Little by little her change helped her husband too, and both began to receive good counseling at the Foundation. Their marriage was restored. Now she helps other women to hold their marriages together. The other woman had to leave her husband to end the abuse and violence against her and their children. She was always afraid and undervaluing herself, and even got cancer. With the help of the Foundation staff, she studied and finished school and got a profession. She was able to recognize the dignity the Lord had given her, and now she helps other women in the same situation.

We had two opportunities to share with 12-20 staff our observations and answer their questions. I commended them for their noble work, saying what they are doing is transforming marriages, families, the lives and future of children, their community and nation. When hearing about the spousal abuse problem, and the success story of one of the women, the Lord put in my mind to share some truths He revealed to me about the nature of men and true manhood.

God commanded a man to love his wife, and a wife to respect her husband, to meet their greatest needs, but which are the most challenging for each to do. Just as a woman needs to be loved deeply and faithfully, so also a man needs respect. When each spouse gives this to the other, especially when not deserved, this unleashes the power God has placed within each one to love and respect the other. A husband needs the respect of his wife more than any other person in the world. If she gives him respect, his heart will open toward her, and out of him will be unleashed a strong desire to protect and provide for her and their children. Further, a man who truly knows, loves and fears God will not abuse his wife or children; and if he ever strikes out in anger, he will be so deeply grieved that he will confess his sin, ask for forgiveness, recognize that he has a deeper problem, get the help he needs, and never do it again.

There is a great need for the restoration of the nobility of manhood, and for men to understand that God created them to cherish, protect and provide for their wives and children.

By 2021, Fundación Sembrar has served 1,440 direct beneficiaries: 755 children, 167 young people, and 520 mothers and fathers. The work is conceived according to the dignity of the person, recognizing that their value is not determined by any circumstance or condition. They accompany, listen to, guide and sustain others, especially valuing family relationships. Visiting the Foundation, we were encouraged even more in the GLC Mission to protect life and family in the arena of public policies (<https://www.fundacionsembrar.ec/>).

For the precious gift of every child and remembrance of children unborn,

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