

Cathy's Caribbean Quarterly

March 5, 2012

Life here continues to present multiple challenges, both for me and for those in my community. Several women in my church and community are like Aura, in that they are returning to school, trying to finish high school. Aura dropped out of school when she became pregnant with her first child as a sophomore. In order to provide for her family, she has worked cleaning homes, shining pots and pans, cooking on the street for workers in the free zone factories, as well as working in one of the factories for a time herself. Early every morning she passes in front of my house with a cheerful greeting on her way to sweep the children's park close by, sometimes accompanied by her little grandson. She has a small home business of selling ice cream as well. A recent article I saw put teen pregnancies at ~10% of all pregnancies in the country, which results in greater poverty for families, higher school dropout rates and more health risks.



Twenty years after dropping out, she returned to school. She has now finished high school and started classes at a local university where she is studying psychology. Her eldest daughter did not go past 8th grade and has one child. Her middle daughter gave birth to her son while still in high school, though continued her studies. She too, is studying in the university now. Her youngest daughter is in 8th grade and is an acolyte at church.

Aura's t-shirt shows that she is one of the members of the Hijas Del Rey, or Daughters of the King (DOK), here in Santa Fe. This new DOK chapter is very active, visiting people in their homes for personal Bible studies, leading monthly services and visiting the sick and homebound.

In a recent Bible study this challenge spoke to me and you are involved. I need your prayers for spiritual strength and fruitfulness. I realize that ranks up there with asking for patience, but feel God is working within me even as God is working through me. Please also pray for all families involved with teen pregnancies, either past or current. I also ask you to join me in thanking the Lord for the many people and churches which are supporting this ministry through prayers and financial gifts.

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