

THE STORY BEHIND THE PANTRY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Four years ago some parents came into our bookstore with their nine year old child. They gave him \$5.00 to buy something in the bookstore. Once inside the bookstore the child's eyes opened wide when he saw more than four hundred attractive books and booklets displayed everywhere. With a face full of expectation he asked me: "And do you have anything for children?" I nearly weep as I remember my answer. After looking up and down, in the stands and under the counter, I had to tell him, "Oh, I'm so sorry! But, we have *nothing* for children!" That day when I returned home I was deeply troubled. I said to myself, How can it be that after so many years that we have *nothing for the children*? Prayer sprang from within me as I asked the Lord for the grace to produce these materials for our children.

Shortly afterward a small group of brothers and sisters began to have regular fellowship and prayer about this burden. We began to seek the Lord to see if we could possibly produce some materials for the children.

After about three weeks a sister brought a short story she had written. Though it did not even have a title, it was written exactly according to the fellowship and leading brother Lee had given many years earlier concerning how to write proper stories for the children. The interesting thing was to find out from her that she had never known of the fellowship given by brother Lee. Nevertheless, from her experience as a schoolteacher of young children, and by God's grace, she wrote our first story! We all read it and discussed about it that night. Finally, a title was given. During the following weeks we saw a certain "context" that could be used for writing stories for the children which would touch upon their humanity and character – and we called it "On Grandpa's Farm". Thus it all began.

Little by little the Lord led us from one thing to another. After a while of praying and considering what we should do with the materials that were being written, we fellowshipped with an older brother in the children's work and told him, "We are thinking to open a webpage in order to make the children's materials available to others." His response comforted us and confirmed to us that we were headed in the right direction when he said, "I don't think there is another way!" Shortly afterwards what is now known as "A Pantry for Children and Young people" (alacena para niños) was brought forth. The webpage gave us a way to make our "groceries" available at no cost to others who might want to use them, whether parents, those who serve with the children and young people, or the children themselves. We hope that through our labor together from many places throughout the Lord's recovery that the children and young people who benefit from these materials may become very useful vessels in the Lord's hands and very proper members in the church life.

During these past four years the Lord has provided the cooperation and talents of many members of His Body, for which we are very grateful. They range from five years old to more than sixty five years of age. They come from many different countries, including: Mexico, United States, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Peru, Columbia, Ecuador, Chile, England, Africa, Germany and Taiwan. How we praise the Lord, the glorious Head of His Body, for such a "virtual" team to coordinate with! To God be the glory!

The Lord told us that not even a cold glass of water given to one of His little ones would be forgotten. We hope that through the Pantry many "glasses of cold water" could be supplied to His young people and children. "Lord, we offer these materials up to You! May they be for the encouragement and perfecting of both those who serve with young people and children as well as to the children and young people themselves. May You use these young ones to build up your Body and consummate the preparation of your Bride!" Amen.