

The Emra Express

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“Why Did You Choose Me?”

Most of the time we talk about the influence that S.A.Y. Yes! has on the lives of the kids with whom Sheryl and I work.

It is so satisfying to watch a young person start to make good choices—change direction and start moving toward God!

But we cannot stop with the kids. The power of the S.A.Y. Yes! Program is to realize that the kids are an entrée into the lives of the parents. The relationship we choose to establish with the parents is the key to reaching them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There had been many attempts to share the Gospel with Mirna, a single mother with a young daughter and son. She had been struggling with the challenges of being partially deaf for a long time and had chosen to turn to alcohol in order to cope with life.

This year the Church chose to give her a Box Of Love for the Holidays. A few minutes after they left her home she came across the street to the church to ask about the gift card that was in her box.

“Does this card have money on it?” she asked the pastor.

He replied, “Yes, it has a little money for you to use at the store to buy some meat or more food for your family.”

She looked at him in shock not understanding why the Church would choose to give her food and a gift card. The gift card wasn't just money, it was the trust that was being placed in Mirna, empowering her to buy what she thought her family needed. She was overwhelmed they thought of her and gave such a gift.

Mirna asked, “Why did you choose me?”

The pastor explained that the Church wanted her to know they cared for her and most of all that God loved her. **Mirna chose to give her life to Christ that day!**

Now, Mirna is in the Church just about every time the doors are open.

All of this came to pass because someone chose to care enough to build a relationship with Mirna so when the Box of Love arrived on her door step this holiday season she was able to make the connection from the **box** through the people of the **Church** to **God**.

Thank you for making the choices you do so we can work with Churches, teaching them how to build important relationships in their communities with kids and adults.

In His Service,

for John and Sheryl Emra

Answered Prayer

Our time in Oregon was wonderful. The funeral was a coronation of a life well lived.

The miles we traveled this holiday season were uneventful. Thank you for praying!

Prayer Request

Pray for the people from the six churches who have expressed a desire to attend the January S.A.Y. Yes! Training.

Pray for Maria who is now getting settled into her new apartment in China. She needs God's guidance on whether to get a student or a work visa.

In the past few months Sheryl and I have been presented with a number of ministry opportunities. Pray with us as we take the time to find God's direction.