

WEEK 35 • SEPTEMBER 2, 2023

Brazil: The Birthday Soup

Philippians 4:19—“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

Juliana’s birthday was coming up, and she wanted to make soup for the homeless on her birthday.

“Making soup is hard work,” Mom said. “It costs a lot, and we don’t have a pot big enough to cook soup for lots of people.”

Juliana wasn’t discouraged. “God will provide what we need for the soup.” Juliana had learned that God can provide for our needs at a Pathfinder meeting. Mom was glad that Juliana loved God, but Mom didn’t go to church.

Juliana prayed about the soup, and God gave her an idea. The next day Juliana visited her neighbors and asked if she could borrow a big soup pot to make soup for the hungry. Two neighbors lent her their biggest pots. Then Juliana visited the nearest grocery store and asked the manager if he would donate some vegetables to make soup for the homeless. He agreed and gave her a bag of vegetables. Juliana visited several other stores to ask for vegetables, and each one gave her bags of ingredients. Juliana returned home pulling a wagon full of vegetables.

“What’s this?” Mom asked when she saw bags of food.

“It’s the soup ingredients!” Juliana beamed. “And here are the pots. Some ladies from the church will come tomorrow to help make the soup.” Mom was amazed at Juliana’s plan. With the help of the Adventist women, they made lots of soup.

The next day, Juliana and her Mom and the ladies from the church finished making the soup and loaded the pots into a van. They drove into town to meet the homeless and hungry men and women who were waiting to eat. One girl announced that it was Juliana’s birthday and that she had made soup for them. The homeless people cheered and sang “Happy Birthday” to Juliana.

Mom realized that Juliana was filled with God’s love. Mom wanted to feel God’s love too. She began attending church with Juliana, and several months later, Mom asked Jesus into her heart. Today, Juliana, her mom, and several other church members feed the homeless twice a month.

Juliana and her mom didn’t have the money or time to cook the soup, but Juliana believed that God would supply her need “according to His riches” (Phil. 4:19 NKJV). He will provide for our needs when we trust Him and give Him our regular and systematic offerings, called Promise.

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