

WEEK 34 • AUGUST 26, 2023

## Angola: The Blind Boy Sees Jesus

Matthew 19:14—“But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” ”

While playing one day, 10-year-old Ricardo fell head-first while jumping over a fence. Soon he began to lose his eyesight. Within a few months he couldn't see the blackboard at school. Eventually, the teacher sent Ricardo home saying, “I cannot teach a blind boy.”

Ricardo's parents took him to many doctors, but no one could help him. They said he would eventually become blind. Ricardo was sad that he could no longer play soccer, ride a bicycle, or play hide and seek with his friends.

Ricardo's older cousin invited Ricardo to a Pathfinder Club outing, but Ricardo hesitated. Ricardo's cousin convinced him to go, and Ricardo was surprised that he could participate in the activities. Ricardo was glad he had gone.

Eventually, Ricardo joined the baptismal class to prepare for baptism. The leader asked those wanting to be baptized to memorize the Ten Commandments. Ricardo was afraid he couldn't be baptized because he couldn't read, but his mom encouraged him. “God willing, you will be baptized,” she said.

Ricardo's sister offered to read the Ten Commandments to Ricardo every day. By Friday, Ricardo could recite the Ten Commandments. The elder congratulated him when he was baptized the next day.

One day the Sabbath School leader asked Ricardo to tell the mission story the next week. Some church members were concerned that he would be embarrassed because he couldn't read, but the Sabbath School leader asked Ricardo, “Can you tell the story next week?” Ricardo nodded. “Then I will put your name on the program.”

Again, Ricardo's sister read the mission story to him, and he memorized it. On Sabbath, Ricardo told the story with confidence. When he finished, loud “amens” filled the church. Such experiences gave Ricardo confidence that he could work for God.

Today, Ricardo is a university student preparing to become a pastor. He leads a Pathfinder club and preaches in churches around Angola. Dozens of people have given their lives to Jesus after hearing his sermons and testimony.

The boy who thought he wasn't worth anything because he was blind has learned that with God's help, he can do anything. God's children can faithfully return their tithes and Promise offerings whenever they receive an income.

**Our Promise offerings are gifts to God, not to the church. Show Him your love and dedication by giving in faith.**

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We are not to wait for souls to come to us; we must seek them out where they are. . . . There are multitudes who will never be reached by the gospel unless it is carried to them  
*(Christ's Object Lessons, p. 229).*

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