



ENGLISH AT BREAK TIME

AUTHENTIC MATERIAL 3

ON THE CHILEAN MINERS

Dear friends (and enemies, jejeje),

I don't see any mention in any of the threads here about the Chilean miners. I watched that drama with great interest and sympathy as did many of my friends here in the USA. Americans love drama. We love to get teary-eyed and excited when the hero rushes in to save someone. It's part of our collective soul to want to be heroes.

That's why our movies are so good. ;-)

The Chilean government and the Chilean people overwhelmed me with how efficient and compassionate they are and were during this crisis. Men hugging and kissing each other in celebration---that's a sight you don't often see in the USA. Such wonderful loving souls they all have! It makes me wish we were more like them. Here we are not really that family-oriented. We don't have close-knit relationships, kids don't love their parents, the individual is celebrated more than the collective....in fact....most kids here can't wait to leave home and have their own life away from their families. Here, we have mostly the appearance of a normal family while behind closed doors a lace curtains we squabble and are quite dysfunctional. We only appear to have it all under control....but that's another story.

However, back to the happy Chileans.... I salute you all ! You gathered together, worked toward a common great goal, and accomplished it with grand perfection. You stand forever in my mind as a shining example of what we humans can accomplish when we aim our spirits and hearts toward a great goal. Such drama and courage often goes unnoticed. This time, dear Chileans, we all watched and honored you and your efforts. As one of the miners stated so eloquently, "This will change the way we see ourselves and our country forever." I agree wholeheartedly. You should be proud.

I find myself humming the Chilean anthem now. I don't know what the words mean or why they shout the words with such enthusiasm, but I love the way it makes me feel. Perhaps that's a key to our survival in this world---don't think so much, just feel it. Just feel how this event captured the attention of the world. Just feel how it made us all lean close to the TV and cry as the first man stepped out of that metal cage. Just feel how this terrible drama brought us all together as humans. Just feel the relief of being free after being trapped in a dark hole. Just feel how all those people worked around the clock to help. If only we could be that way every day with everyone. What a paradise earth would be! Just feel what that would be like !!

Chileans, I thank you for your shining human example. You warmed my soul to its core and I will never forget you. A moment ago you were just a tiny, insignificant country to us. Now you live in my heart. I feel you like the warm touch of a loving mother. I feel you now.

RALPH.-

Re: Chilean Miners

Ralph, while I do not share your assessment of the American family values and relationships (perhaps my Latino roots give me a totally different perspective), I certainly do join you in your extremely eloquent accolade of the Chilean people and its government; their persistence, their eagerness, their ability to NEVER give up, even under the most strenuous circumstances, in their efforts to bring back to life at any cost and sacrifice, 33 honest and hard working men. I was impressed beyond belief at how the entire process worked like clockwork: no glitches, no problems, no "what do we do now?" moments. It only speaks highly to the intense planning that took place for months -- day and night --; the incredible skills and knowledge of the planners to execute to perfection; the braveness of the six rescuers who volunteered to go some 700 meters deep into the earth in order to ensure the miners' safe return to the surface, not knowing whether they would also forever remain trapped in the darkness below unable to come back to the surface; and the commitment, beyond realm, of their President and his cabinet. A salute also goes to all those foreign governments that demonstrated their tremendous humanitarian policies by assisting in the rescue efforts with machinery and incredibly capable and knowledgeable men and women.

Thank you Ralph, for taking the initiative in expressing these beautiful words to our Chilean brothers and sisters!!!