

2013 – Difficulties That Brought Blessings

That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:10

It is hard to believe but we have been serving and ministering here in the Dominican Republic for over six years! In those six plus years we can honestly say that no two days have been the same, something new and different every day. But no matter what the day brought we have felt God right there with us the whole way. We have also felt the prayers of God's people lifting us up- **THANK YOU!** This past year has been one of the most challenging as we have experienced some health issues that made things a little more difficult. The crazy thing is that we have been blessed even more abundantly through these difficulties. God's warm presence has been there with us healing, strengthening and comforting us. This year has led us to be thinking about what God has done through this ministry in the last six years. Here are a few things that God has done: 1) The gospel has been preached to thousands of Dominicans and Haitians with over 500 coming to know Jesus as their Savior!!! 2) More than 100 pastors and church leaders have been blessed and encouraged with bibles, construction improvements of their church, help evangelizing their communities and various materials to help them disciple their congregations. 3) Over 50 communities have been uplifted by donations of food, water, clothes, and many other essentials. 4) The community of Chichigua, which has about 60 very poor families, has been gifted clean

water for over 5 years helping the community be healthier and saving many lives. 5) Our two medical clinics have saved countless lives and improved thousands of people's health and well being. The clinics have provided over 35,000 consultations and given thousands of dollars in medicine, thanks to various donors/supporters to the poor and needy. This has been essential to a better life for many enabling them to work, go to school and have more abundant lives as healthy individuals. We were also able to provide much needed/life saving surgeries to over 30 people.

God continues to bless many through Willing Servant Ministries. We want to say thank you to all those over the last 6 plus years that have and continue to support and partnered with us. Thank you for all you do!!! We are saving and blessing lives together. **THANK YOU!**

Mostly we thank **Jesus** for His unfailing love and for the mission He has entrusted in our hands.

Remember this scripture: Matthew 25:40 - "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Mission Team – New Jersey

In November we were blessed to receive a team that has faithfully been coming here for the last 10 years. They are led every year by Mary Rapuano (**pictured right**) who always does an excellent job leading the teams. The team this year was a huge blessing to everyone they came in contact with, including us. They painted a kitchen in a small school in Cangrejo also playing with and helping feed the children. The group worked really hard painting a pregnancy crisis center and help construct a cement sidewalk/pathway while also bringing much needed donations to a very poor community in Aguas Negras, Puerto Plata. On their schedule was a stop at the Mustard Seed Orphanage where the team loved on the children and the staff that work there by helping feed the children, doing dishes, helping with the laundry (**bottom left**) and cleaning out a storage room that had many large scary spiders! They visited the schools run by Dominican Advance in Villa Nazareth and Villa Paradise - bringing gifts for sponsor children (**bottom middle**) and a few new children were sponsored as well! We were blessed in the clinic by their medical donations that will reach well beyond the parameters of the village. (**bottom right**).



Mission Experiences

Volunteer Aida Gravlee (pictured right) shares about her one week mission trip experience.

Can words accurately describe what it is like to be a missionary? Not really, actually not at all. I say train and do it. Jesus made everything possible in this life with His atoning sacrifice. Your voice is shaking and the tears begin to roll down your cheeks because you realize that while you were in the "service of your fellow beings" you were only in the service of our Lord, our Holy Father. You will be taught by these people and you will love them. I was amazed by the love and dedication and hard work Tina and Rob do every day. You will think of your mission every day and you will want to go back. I strongly recommend you go to Sosua and do the work and spread the Good News of hope, faith, and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. There are Willing Servants there to guide and help you get through it. It was an amazing and wonderful experience. You feel the presence of the Lord in an unexplainable divine way. Yes, I miss it and want to go back next year!



Going Forward – 2014

- Please continue to pray and lift this ministry up - it is such a blessing to so many.
- We are looking for advocates who would consider partnering with us – spreading the word of this ministry where you live – having fundraisers to help this ministry continue financially. Please email us if this is YOU !
- Above all, please pray for the softening of hearts and opening of ears to the Good News of a Savior's love for those in our sphere of influence here – we give all glory to God for this ministry and we will continue with His help, to be Willing Servants.
- We are still looking for more mission teams for next year 2014 particularly in the summer. If you are interested in bringing a team to partner with us to help the poor, please contact us by e-mail at info@willing servantministries.org.



Willing Servant Ministries is a non-profit tax-exempt Christian organization established by and for Rob and Tina Iannone to carry out the mission that God has called us to in the Dominican Republic. We will be working to further the gospel and help those in need physically, mentally and spiritually. We are able to continue to touch lives for Christ because of **Faithful Supporters** who generously give to further the Good News! Thank you for your love and support in the past and for the days to come. May God richly bless you!!

Then I heard a voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"
And I said, "Here am I Lord. Send me!" - Isaiah 6:8

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## Willing Servant Ministries Partnership



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