

A May Furlough

Wow, how time flies ! When we left Daytona Beach, Florida last August we planned on returning for furlough the first week of May the next year – it seemed so far off at the time. The first eight months living and adjusting to missionary life in the Dominican Republic was challenging to say the least! There were days of frustration, sadness missing family and friends and many days of discovering the wonders of living a life of total reliance in faith.

Our three weeks home in Daytona were filled with many opportunities to share our experiences and adventures of the past eight months and the many ways that God has used us to carry out His plans to touch others for Him. We were also blessed to be able to attend the graduation of our oldest son, Chris, from Warner Southern College with a Bachelor of Arts degree, Summa Cum Laude (with highest honors). We are very proud of him and his accomplishments.

We want to say a **BIG thank you** to all of you who have been a part of our mission to the Dominican Republic in one way or another and to say to you that God is not done with us yet ~ please continue to support us as God leads whether financially or prayerfully. You will be blessed.

Boldly Going Where God Leads

As a Christian ~ as a committed follower of Jesus ~ you know that the Lord leads you through some rocky roads. Yet Jesus never took the comfy paths when He was here in the flesh. And He doesn't take them now in the person of the Holy Spirit, your guide. The truth is, if you want to stay in your comfort zone, you can, but you'll lose sight of Him very quickly as he moves on ~ reaching out to those who need Him. Instead, He calls us to boldly follow Him everywhere He goes. You and I have a mission. And if we accept it, we can change lives for eternity. This is actually what we were made for. We will never find fulfillment in life unless we find our mission, our calling, our purpose. It's our job to love God and to serve Him boldly.

We have a longing to step out into the unknown while still having the assurance that all will work out for the best, just as God guarantees it will. There's a yearning in each of us to follow a powerful, almighty God who is truly good and truly loving. But many times we hold back because of fear and uncertainty, because we don't want to be left out on the limb if God doesn't come through. Yet as we go, without hesitation, isn't He there with us ~ guarding and guiding us? Jesus said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." The simple and profound truth is that if we trust God to be who He claims to be, then we can go and speak and do all He calls us to accomplish. We can do it boldly, with the assurance that God will make a way for us. He will protect us until the end. He will never leave us. He is faithful!!

Short-Term Mission Teams

The month of June has started off with a BANG! We are working and ministering with several teams that are coming to the Dominican Republic with YWAM Orlando (Youth With A Mission) through the end of July. We have purchased a mission truck that is able to transport these teams from the various ministry locations and work sites ~ what a blessing it is to have our own transportation!

The first team of June was a group of 14 Youth from Winter Park, Florida. They were here for 10 days. The second team of June was a group of 17 Youth from Pennsylvania and they were here for 7 days. These 2 teams did a lot of various things during their stay. They went to the local dump and ministered to those who live and work there with dramas, music, testimonies and feeding 200 people a hot meal. They went to some villages and played sports with the children and performed their dramas for them also. They went to the public hospital and ministered to injured and sick men, woman and children with prayer and giving out of hygiene kits to the patients. They did various construction projects like painting pews in a church, building a small park for children, and constructing a kitchen for a school. They loved on the children and really made a difference in many lives with the short time they were here in the Dominican Republic. We want to say thank you to both of these teams for the work and ministry they did while here in the Dominican Republic. Both teams were awesome!!!



Team Winter Park



Team Pennsylvania

In the Hot Summer Sun

The summer has begun with a flurry of activity in Villa Nazaret – with the first school year coming to a close at the Dr. Phyllis Callahan Christian School and the excitement of an afternoon session being added in August for grades 3-6, many more children have the opportunity to be sponsored to attend school next year. The administrators and teachers of these students desire to lift them to a high level of learning but they have discovered a problem in the last year. Many of these kids are coming to school hungry and malnourished and are unable to concentrate and give their best. We have been asked to be a part of the solution – this summer there will be several teams of youth working in the village with us getting their hands dirty constructing a kitchen on the back of the school. The construction is being funded by YWAM Orlando and its short term teams. This kitchen will be the beginning of a nutrition program for the students of this great school. The program will provide the morning students in grades preschool – 2nd grade a good breakfast and the afternoon session a lunch, at no charge to the students. We began construction on June 17 with team Winter Park and continued through June 28 with a team from Pennsylvania. The work is not easy and entails them to mix cement on the ground in very humid and hot conditions. They have done a lot of wheel barrowing, digging and shoveling, carrying block, and of course playing with the children while they work. Many of the children want to help and are very hard workers. It is always inspiring to see everyone working together. There are two more groups from YWAM Orlando coming in July and they should finish the project by July 31. Many of the people whose children attend the school are very excited about this program. The kitchen opening also provides employment for a few people who live locally. If you would like to know how you can help support the food program or would like to sponsor a child to go to this school, please visit www.dominicanadvance.org.



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~ Rob and Tina Iannone

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