

Partnership News

June 2015

A Long Awaited Trip Russell Enzor

For the first time in my life I stood there, teaching the Scriptures through a translator in another country. Our gracious God often fills our days with wonderful surprises. I had followed the ministry in the Dominican Republic since it was begun by friends of mine in 1981. The ministry shifted from its original location to where it now centers near the village of Juan Tomas. My friends Carl and Pat Key also helped to establish Logos Christian School in Santa Domingo.

At the invitation of long time missionary Paul McMillan and the leaders of Centro Biblia Church and Fountain of Life School, Susan and I were privileged to represent Southview in ministering the Word among these dear people for a week in January. We could not have gotten there and back without the help of Mike Barr. Mike also began and continues to

translate my papers into Spanish on "The Believer's Possessions and Identity in Christ" and "Over 300 Great and Precious Promises in Scripture".

I spoke to the entire school faculty and encouraged them to go on. Since 80% of the high school students may not be believers, I told them the story of my brother's life and death and gave an invitation to receive Christ. I spoke five times to the church and had two very lengthy question and answer times with them.

Susan and I could clearly see God leading and answering the prayers of you here at Southview for us. The dear people there had prayed before we came and received us with great affection in Christ and sent us back to you with their best blessings. Thank you for trusting us to do this ministry.



Upcoming Short Term Mission Trips:

June 30 - July 8th
Junior English Camp

June 22-30
Proclamation Youth Group, Bryn Mawr, PA

July 17 - July 24
Woodmont Baptist Church Nashville, TN

6th Trip to the DR Mike Barr

This was my 6th mission trip down to the Dominican Republic, and there were still new and different things for me to experience. Our typical trip is during the summer, when school is out with much of our labor being physical. For this trip, being during the winter, I was able to experience the children at the school and even do some teaching. Also, I was able to use my experience in leadership and contribute to the translation of some of Pastor Russ' written teachings.

An additional difference is that I was able to adopt more of the Dominican culture. Generally, our group is so big and doing physical labor all day, that we end up not having very much time to spend with the Dominican people. Since our group was only three people we weren't as busy with physical labor, we had much more opportunity to enjoy getting to know the people and their culture. Instead of simply taking our culture to them, we got the chance to



see what it is like to live how they do. This was eye-opening in itself.

However, the greatest thing that I will take away from the experience is how hungry their church was for the Word. In stark contrast to what we see in many people in the church today, the DR people take every opportunity they can to get fed by the Scriptures and grow in their walk with the Lord. It is an attitude that affected me personally and one that I can hopefully pass on to those I come in contact with, as well.

My impressions of the Dominican Republic believers could be summed up in one word: JOY!

"How could that be?" you ask. They have no running water (only bottled water is safe), and, for most, no indoor plumbing. Their kitchen utensils are mismatched dishes and glasses, battered pots and pans, and outdated kitchen tools such as a potato masher. Many do not have a refrigerator or even electricity.

The nearest grocery store is miles away. They either use public transportation or pay to ride a motorcycle. The roads are full of chuck holes and volcanic rock that pushes up through the road to create a very bumpy surface.

Medical help is 10-20 miles away, and yet they praise the Lord continually for blessing them so. My face burned with shame as I listened to them sing with great feeling, "Count Your Blessings."

Their joy does not come from the possession of things or their circumstances, but from knowing that their sins are forgiven and that someday there is a future home with their Saviour, Jesus.

By Sue Enzor

Medical Trip a Success! *Stephanie Connell*

Our family was so blessed to have the chance to visit Juan Tomas a second time this past March. As my husband, 3 kids and I stepped off the bus, we were surrounded by the beautiful, familiar faces we had waited a year to see again. This year we tagged along with doctors, nurses, and nursing students from the Ashland University School of Nursing who were spending their spring breaks in Juan Tomas working at the medical clinic.

Throughout the week we saw over 1,000 patients, and had an opportunity to share the gospel with each of them through the use of the wordless bracelets. We also went into the school and made the bracelets with the elementary students. Moms with babies were presented care packages to take home, and Fountain of Life students were given physicals. I was able to work in the pharmacy during the week, and I was amazed at how

many medications we have in America that are common household items, like Ibuprofen and rash cream, that Dominicans didn't have. What a joy it was to spend time with these appreciative, precious people who have made a permanent imprint in our hearts. They were so grateful for the help, never complaining about how long they had to wait. What a lesson we can learn from them!

The night before we left, many of us went to the ocean and stood, holding hands singing "How Great is Our God" in Spanish and English at the same time, tears streaming down our faces. My 10 year old son, Will, stood up at the end of that evening and said, "Leaving these people makes me feel like I am leaving behind my family." We hope and pray to be able to return to our Dominican family again soon!



Dayton Christian Visits

I was blessed with the opportunity to go to the Dominican Republic this past January with some fellow Dayton Christian High School students. Like a child, anticipation and joy built up inside me as the days drew nearer to my departure from Dayton, Ohio to the land of mangú and refreshing chinola juice. Emotionally and physically, I was in a pretty good place (aside from the occasional Ohio allergy attacks) before the trip. Spiritually, I was content, which I believe is a dangerous place to be. One should constantly be seeking Christ and living to glorify Him, not just being content with the same old routine. Luckily, the Lord had a big plan for my upcoming trip.

My first few days in the Dominican Republic were sunny and full of preparation for the work ahead. The first work day, we split into three groups: a siding house, a cement floor house, and a painting house. I was pleased to be placed into the cement house group because I had always wanted to know how a house gets the way it does, starting with the floor. Throughout the week, as I worked with my group on the house floor, God was showing me all of the things I took for granted. The family who lived in the house was constantly walking in mud; I couldn't help but imagine myself waking up to mud on my feet. It was overwhelming to see how the house floor looked from the start to finish. The family was more than grateful for our hard work, and I learned a thing or two about myself as well.

Not only was my working group a success, but Vacation Bible School also went great! The theme of the VBS was "God Always Wins", and by the glowing smiles on the kids' faces on the first night, I knew it would be a valuable thing to learn for all of them. All of the lessons had little bits of information that applied to my life, but the most important lesson to me was "God Wins Over Idols". We taught this



lesson to the kids at the public school, and it stayed with me throughout that evening. As I was sitting on the roof of our dorm with a teammate, Grace, I couldn't help but notice the bright sky. "Do you think the sky is clearer here because there is less pollution?" I asked. She replied, "Yeah, they don't have as many cars or factories as we do." That conversation was another way God was emphasizing idols in my life, believe it or not. I realized that when we have idols in our lives, like the sky, we become polluted and unclear.

From the eye-opening mud floors, to the VBS lessons, to the little conversations between teammates, my spiritual state went from content to excited. I became excited, in the Dominican Republic, to address the issues in my life of greed and idolization. I have to admit, the excitement hasn't worn off either. Since I've been home, it has been interesting seeing how many things I put before God. Even my sins themselves could serve as idols if they are replacing Christ. I am learning that God really DOES win over all idols. God always wins!

Alyssa



Dayton Christian Continued...

Alexis VanFleet

I, along with eleven other students and three adults, went to the Dominican Republic to spread God's love to the Dominicans. There are so many ways to show his love, but we demonstrated it through working in the community of Juan Tomas. We also hosted a VBS for the local kids.

Over the 10 days we were in the DR, we partnered with 25 seniors from Fountain of Life to help out people in the community and host a vacation Bible school for the kids living in Juan Tomas. We divided into teams to do three work jobs: mixing and laying concrete, painting the interior and exterior of a house, and siding a house with wood panels. I was on the concrete mixing team, which was really challenging since we had to mix in the bags of concrete, rocks, sand, and water into a mixer that one of the guys had to operate. It was hard, but it was satisfying to see the family's house have concrete floors and a sidewalk to their outdoor shower, instead of mud.

On one day, I had been dumping some concrete powder into the mixer when the bag slipped and I dumped the concrete and the bag into the mixer! I was scared that I would be yelled at for making such a stupid mistake...but it never happened. There was a moment of silence, then everyone burst out laughing—one guy even fell to the ground laughing! God taught me in that moment that little mistakes aren't worth getting angry over.

The VBS was my one of my favorite parts of the trip, but it was the most challenging part. The first day was probably the hardest because we had expected a maximum of 100 kids...but we had 200 kids show up!!! It was amazing to interact with the kids and to sing and dance with them...but it was hectic because we didn't have enough craft supplies prepared for all of the kids, so we had to hastily make some more. On that day, we did a "Jericho" skit where we were the walls of Jericho and the kids had to march around us 7 times to make us fall down. They loved it! We did a skit or a dance each day of the VBS. I even played Satan for the skit on the last day when we had over 200 kids!! I loved working with them a lot!

The second Saturday that we were there was our day to tour around Santo Domingo the entire day, learning the history of the city. I even caught a pigeon by a big fountain in a plaza that we had visited! For lunch, we got pizza and a couple of the Dominican guys ate over 12 pieces of pizza!! After that, we went to a plaza and chilled for a couple of hours: taking pictures, talking, laughing, and watching a couple of the Dominican teenagers race in bumper cars outside in the plaza! We had grown really close to each other during the week and going to the city gave us the opportunity to get to know each other even better.

The last day was the hardest day because we had to leave all of our new friends to come back to Ohio. We hugged everyone and exchanged Facebooks and then we went home after visiting a small market. It was hard to transition back to life in the U.S. for the first couple of weeks because of the poverty we had seen. But, with God's help we are getting back to normal again.

Therefore, we ought to support such men that we may be fellow workers with the truth. 3 John 8

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