

A New Year of Opportunity and Hope

**And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.
Acts 2:47**

Welcome to 2011! The beginning of a new year is always a time of reflection and anticipation of things to come - January brought the opening of the new clinic in Paradise Village and thanks to our partners/supporters, prayers and the Lord we have started helping the people of that village and surrounding villages with basic medical care. It is such a blessing to help those in need. January and February also brought our first 4 mission teams of 2011, all from Canada. Working beside these teams and team members is always encouraging and a blessing for all. The teams came and did various construction projects with The Samaritan Foundation, building homes, visiting the sick at the hospital; we ministered to and fed lots of children, played with children and showed lots of love to the people here. It is wonderful to see the impact that love can have in the lives of the people who are in desperate need.

Helping the poor with homes, food, and medical care are very important but the most important thing is showing and telling them about Jesus. It is a pleasure to speak the Gospel into lives that are desperate for answers - this has been the biggest blessing for us. We have seen over 50 people come to accept Jesus as their Savior through the various ministries and we praise God for this. One of the ministries we see many come to accept Jesus is the hospital ministry. We take the mission teams to the local public hospital to give the patients hygiene items coupled with visitation and prayer.

The public hospital can be a challenging place for us and many team members to experience but we have to put our own feelings aside and know that the patients are in need of compassion, understanding and the knowledge of a Savior that loves them.

Just a few weeks ago we came across a man named Ramon who has been suffering from the AIDS virus for 10 years and was near the end of his battle. We asked him if he was a Christian and his response was "no". So with the help of our translator Isachar we asked him if he wanted to ask Jesus into his heart and he responded "yes"! Ramon accepted Jesus that day and the heavens rejoiced. After the prayer had finished Ramon looked at me and said several times, "he was praying". You see, Ramon's sister who was there caring for him told us that 2 days prior to our visit he told her about a dream where some missionaries were going to come and pray for him and that I looked like one of the people in his dream. I was in amazement! That the Lord would think to use me in a dream for this man, wow! Our God works in mysterious ways and it is an honor to be used by Him. Now Ramon will have eternal life through Jesus Christ!

We continually pray that we would be used here in the Dominican Republic for His purposes and to fulfill His will for our lives and ministry and we look forward to what is in store in 2011.

- Rob

Missions Experiences

Volunteers and sisters, Clair, Michele, and Abbie (pictured right) share about their two week mission trip experience:

We didn't quite know what to expect before we left England. We knew we were going to help families and communities but we were not sure how we were going to do that. The whole trip was a real eye opener - the families and the kids were amazing. When we went into the first village none of us were prepared for what we would see. The children swarmed the truck and wanted to hold our hands. Even though we could not speak their language we were able to communicate, play games and laugh with them. The kids had so much love to give us. The trip was an emotional roller coaster from seeing the conditions that the families live in to the trip to the public hospital. The projects that we were involved in such as the feeding program and handing out bags with essentials in them were truly amazing and you could see that the people really appreciated what we were doing. It was truly an amazing trip, one that will never be forgotten. We are grateful that we had the experience of helping some of the poorest people in the world and seeing how doing little things can make a massive difference in the lives of people.



Following the Step of Faith

You've heard the saying "if you build it, they will come", right?! Well, The Samaritan Foundation built a beautiful building in Paradise Village for a medical clinic and we accepted the call to raise support and operate it. And ... they are coming!! January 6th marked the opening day of medical consultations for anyone who could walk, get a ride be it van, moto or donkey! We are receiving patients twice a week not only from the village of 160 + families but from all the surrounding areas as well; it's amazing how word travels. We are pleased and blessed to have a great staff of Dr. Lambert (photo right) Susana, Analidia and Miguelina working with us to help those in need of medical care. The teams are helping us with donations of medications and medical supplies and we already have a patient base of 420 and growing! The weather as it was in January brought many children and adults with tonsillitis, various infections and high blood pressure problems.



Here's a bit of statistic – 49% of our patients are under 18 yrs old! How great is it to be able to help so many children! The first weeks we also saw cases of hepatitis B, typhoid fever and diagnosed many with parasites or amoebas. We are able to help our patients with treatment medicinally and support educationally. We thank all of you who have lifted up this ministry in prayer and we ask that you please continue. That the Lord would provide for the needs of running this clinic and it would be a point of light from atop the hill.

Prayer Requests :

- 1) Pray with us for local pastors, leaders and our brothers/sisters in Christ.
- 2) Pray that the Lord continues to bless us with good health and strength.
- 3) Pray for lost souls – that the light of Christ would shine through a dark and hopeless view.
- 4) Pray for funding for the new medical clinic in Paradise Village.



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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