

Willing Servant Ministries



Dominican Republic

Serving Our Savior

March - April 2008

A Blessed April

In April, a missionary couple from England, Jim and Sue Coates, took a trip home for their daughter's wedding. They have a ministry that feeds 49 families in Villa Ascension and they needed someone to continue their program for the three weeks they were going to be gone and so we volunteered to help them. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday we took bags to the village and gave them to the needy families. On Thursday and Fridays we would go to the supermarket and buy the food and then bag it up for the next week. This is a lot of work which included in one week, 316 lbs of rice, 193 lbs of beans, 159 lbs of sugar, and 159 bottles of cooking oil. Some of the families are single moms with 4 to 6 children and some are elderly men or women who have no family and are unable to work. Also in April a wonderful missions team from England (pictured below) came to the Dominican Republic with an organization called Mission Direct. They did not have anyone to lead the 5 person group so we stepped in to lend a hand and lead the group for their 2 weeks here.



One day we helped them facilitate feeding almost 100 people who work and live at the Puerto Plata dump. We also helped them facilitate a feeding of a whole village with around 40 homes and then showed the Jesus film in the evening to that same village. The team from England did other various ministries including helping us with English class, sports ministry in Redemption, visiting sick people in the public hospital, and just showing all those they came in contact with the love of Jesus. We want to say a special thank you to Megan, Tom, Lee, Jackie and Terri for the work they did here in the Dominican Republic.

We miss them and hope they will be back. ~Sometimes you never know where God is going to lead you. One day we were going to Redemption with our friend and translator, Bernard, because we wanted to stop in and check

on a man who had been ill. The man's name is Lucien. When we got to his house we found him to be in extremely bad condition. We were told that his daughter had come to see Lucien and that she was in the village. We wanted to talk to her about taking her dad to the public hospital in Puerto Plata to get help. She did not want him to go because that would mean she would have to go and stay with him. We convinced her (her name is Luciana) that if he did not go he was surely going to die, she finally agreed. Lucien was in such pain that he could not walk or even sit up and so we laid him down in the back of our pick up truck and made the 30 minute drive to the hospital. The doctor was mad at Luciana for bringing her father to the hospital in such bad condition. They immediately admitted Lucien into the hospital and began to run tests. Before we left the hospital we gave Luciana some money to pay for the tests and any medicine Lucien might need because she did not have any money. We also gave her our number and told her to call us if she needed anything. The next day we went back to visit to see how Lucien was doing and was told by Luciana that the doctor said he could die at any time. This is when we asked Luciana if her father was a Christian and she responded no he was not. So, through Bernard we asked Lucien if he would like to accept Jesus into his heart. He could barely speak but he said yes, that he wanted Jesus. One day later Luciana left her father to return home. For the next 10 days we went to the hospital everyday to care for Lucien by feeding him, changing his diaper, bedding and clothing and buying his medication that he needed. After 13 days in the hospital we went to see him again on a Sunday afternoon only to find out he had died during the night. At first we were sad but then realized that Lucien had accepted Jesus and was in a better place now. Lucien was where we want to be, with Jesus in heaven. Amen



Swings For Redemption

When we arrived here in the Dominican Republic we helped erect a swing set in Redemption village ~ there was just one thing wrong, there were no swings. In Sosua we don't have the luxury of having a neighborhood Home Depot so finding swings here was a shot in the dark. In February, Tina went home to Florida for a short visit and she returned with some swings with the help of Manager Mark Jensen and the Port Orange Home Depot. You should have seen the crowd of children gathered on the day we put the swings up ! A buzz was in the air ! This was such a treat for this small community – you just don't see many areas for the children to play. The swing set is in front of one of the Pastor's home and of course there is a lot more noise now. On one of my recent visits I went to apologize to him and his wife for the noise but he simply told me not to be apologetic because he enjoys sitting in his home and watching the children play and laugh.



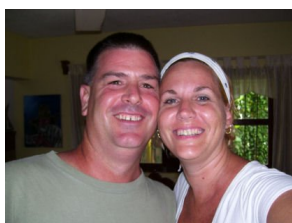
Using Our Projector

During the past months we have gotten several opportunities to use our projector to show the Jesus film in several different locations. One of those times was at the beginning of "Semana Santa" or Holy Week, we would call that Easter at home. Several teachers asked us to show the film so they could explain to the children what Semana Santa is all about. We have also shown the movie in various churches and seen 4 people accept Christ. The story of Jesus was and is and will always be a wonderful, powerful and enlightening message ~ showing the Jesus film is a great way to spread the gospel here in the Dominican Republic. Once again we want to say thank you to all those that support the ministry that God is carrying out in the Dominican Republic.



Points of Interest :

- 1) We will be coming to Daytona Beach for a short visit , May 1 – 21.
- 2) Our friend Greg Rowe (pictured right) came for a visit in April and was welcomed back in the villages. Thank you for the bibles, vitamins and school supplies for those in need that were brought by Greg!
- 3) We now have a vonage phone which allows those who wish to call us the ability to do so to a Daytona Beach number. The number is 386-868-5936. Feel free to give us a call.
- 4) **Updates:** Rosemary continues to heal well and has her cast off and is walking. Thanks for your prayers and praise God for His healing.



Willing Servant Ministries is a Christian organization registered as a non-profit tax-exempt ministry with 501c3 status. We are working to further the gospel and help those in need physically, emotionally and spiritually. We are able 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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