



Luz a las naciones Ministries

Evangelistic Ministry to the Dominican Republic & Haiti



www.lnm.org

November 2009

I have always believed in the power of an encouraging word, to uplift, to bless, and to strengthen those who are in need of it. Whatever giftings we have been blessed with, we can always add being an encourager!

Many families in the barrio are discouraged, and lack hope. Tourism is down; unemployment is high. Sometimes an unexpected illness or accident can cause even greater hardship, as with **Miguelina**, (the daughter of Margo, our cook), whose foot was badly mangled by a motorcycle. I was able to visit, and assist with the purchase of medicine. Please pray for healing for Miguelina's foot; and also that God will truly use me to uplift, encourage, and bless both spiritually and practically the many families we are in contact with.

Summer Mission Teams Encourage

In **July**, a group from **Chattanooga, Tennessee**, blessed us by purchasing paint and painting our classrooms. They also cleaned out a small storage room beside the kitchen, and bought wood for shelving. We've since purchased a computer and turned this room into a study area, where **Roberto** offers computer lessons and extra help for students in the afternoons.



Also in **July**, working with **Pastor Dawry**, an Assemblies of God minister in the rural area of **Cupey**, I took a team of youth with me to assist him with hosting a medical clinic day. Operating out of the local clinic, a

medical team from the **Vineyard Church** in **Boston** saw patients, dispensed medicine, and shared their testimonies throughout the day. What a tremendous turnout we had – practically the entire town! While people waited in line, the youth acted out two dramas that presented the gospel and I was able to preach. It was a great day of encouragement and blessing in an area where many lack adequate medical care.

In **August**, **Malvern Christian Assembly** in **Scarborough** sent a group of six to assist with the hundreds of children that came to Vacation Bible School, both in the **Barrio of Bello Costero** & the **Agua Negra** area. In addition to all the wonderful craft supplies they provided, and time spent ministering to the children/youth, the team also painted our activity room.

Encouragement in Cuba

What a privilege to be able to travel to Cuba at the end of **August** and spend ten days re-connecting with pastors who I first met ten years ago. My intent was to bless and encourage by bringing much-needed



supplies, including school items, clothes, shoes, and toiletries. However, in visiting them, I was far more blessed and encouraged myself. I am pleased to report that our brothers and sisters in Cuba are doing well. They have so little and endure many hardships, including a lack of adequate transportation (we spent five hours one day just waiting for a bus!), but gladly shared what they had with me. We met together regularly for prayer, worship and Bible study.

Before I left for Cuba, **Tony**, our 24 yr old maintenance man at the Centre and former student, felt in his heart to send with me his new shirt and pants plus \$5 US for one of the recently married Cuban pastors. **Pastor Roberto** was overwhelmed when presented with this gift. It was the very shirt he had been praying for but could not afford! It was a great boost to Tony's faith to know that God had used him to answer someone's prayer. Our brothers and sisters in Cuba request prayer to continue to grow in the wisdom and knowledge of God, and that their faith will remain strong.

News from the Centre

The Dominican Secretary of Education has authorized us to teach to the grade three level. This means that when our students move on to the higher grades, we are permitted to issue a certificate stating that they've been taught the required curriculum. With the funds available to us, it seemed like God's leading to only provide pre-school to grade three this year. **(If you were sponsoring an older child, we will soon contact you to see if you would take on a younger child, or one of our Haitian students.)** We currently have 110 children enrolled, both Dominicans and Haitians. At least 50 of these students do not have birth certificates. The afternoons will now be

reserved for special education and homework assistance. The youth continue to come on Saturday afternoons for games and Bible study. On Sundays, I am taking children/youth to church. Please pray for our teachers (Rosa, Loyda, Marisole & Sophia). Pray for all the children & families. Pray for the youth especially, that they will really commit to following Christ.

Praise God, our **special education class** in the afternoon has ten special needs students enrolled. **Hosea** was one student who was very happy to return. He was unable to attend school before, due to his disability, yet at 12 yrs of age he is an attentive student and doing well. **Juan Carlos**, disabled since birth, is also receiving special care and attention. Sister **Loyda**, who has faithfully taught with me for many years, is teaching this class. I believe these special needs children are especially close to God's heart. Please pray for this class – and also for Loyda, who recently lost the eyesight in one eye, and is struggling to adjust to her own disability.

God is the Greatest Encourager of All

Since we first opened a Christian Centre in **Puerto Plata** in **2000**, hundreds of children have received an education and heard the good news of the gospel. Even prior to the opening of the Centre, many others gathered in my driveway to hear Bible stories. What an encouragement it was to me to recently be in the town of **Cupey**, and be approached by a young man who once came to listen to those Bible stories. He's now a pastor in **San Marcos**, and God is using him to bring many to Christ!

Haiti



In our last newsletter, we mentioned our desire to expand the work in Haiti, specifically in the busy border town of **Ouanaminthe**. Since **2005**, we have funded a small Christian school out of the home of **Pastor Paul Michelet**, who also uses his home on Sunday for church services. Since that time, Pastor Paul's family has grown and we realized that we needed to find another place for the school. Praise God, and thanks to funds donated by the youth of **Antioch Christian Ministries** and another generous donor, **Luz a Las Naciones** purchased a 90' X 70' lot. As funds become available, we hope to build a structure that can serve as both a school and church.

Haitian children in border areas are especially vulnerable to exploitation and forced child labour. There are numerous children whose home is the street, who are often hungry, with no hope of an education or of breaking free of the cycle of poverty. God has placed it on both my heart and Pastor Paul's to work with these children. Praise God for another successful pastors' conference



this past July in Cap Haitian with Pastors Gerrie Armaly & Claude Page from Antioch Christian Ministries. Please pray for the work in Haiti, and that God will lead us each step of the way.

October visit to Canada

Praise God, I was able to see many of you in October. Thanks to **Leamington Christian Centre** and **Walkerton Pentecostal Church** for inviting me to speak, and to all who came to our fundraising banquet at **St. Andrews Church** in **Etobicoke**. It greatly encourages me that I have many praying for me and supporting the work. Funds raised go a long way in helping us run the schools and continue outreach.

Christmas Plans

Prior to Christmas, we hope to present each child, both at the Centre in Puerto Plata and at our school in Haiti, with a shoebox containing a small toy, some school supplies, toiletries, and a few candies. If you'd like to help us in this endeavour, please consider a special Christmas donation.

Upcoming Outreach to India

Lord willing, I will travel to India **January 4th to 30th** with missionary **Faith Splane** from **Gospel of Christ Outreach**. This will be my third visit to India, where I previously worked with Faith's sister-in-law, assisting her in her work



with widows, orphans and local churches in **Andhra Pradesh**. I'll be visiting pastors and churches in the south this time. We will hold one week of meetings for pastors and their wives in **Orissa**, recently in the news for violence against Christians and currently experiencing widespread flooding.

Please pray for God's protection as we travel. Pray that we will be an encouragement to those who have suffered persecution and be able to bless them both spiritually and practically.

Faith & Ernie Splane, who speak fluent Spanish, are currently considering assisting me in Puerto Plata on a short-term assignment. This would allow me to take a furlough after 15 years of service here, & spend some extended time with my 80 yr old mother in Canada. Please pray for God's direction in this matter. I will keep you posted.

Thank you so much for your support & friendship. May God richly bless this Christmas! May you be filled with joy, peace, and the anticipation of a bright future in Christ Jesus!

In His Service, *Richard Brochu*

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." Gal 6:9, 10