

Greetings from Connie

May/June 2012

***Iglesia Evangélica Dominicana
Apartado 42 Barahona, Dominican Republic***



Culto de Jubilo

In May we held a service of celebration that started at 8:00 PM and finished at 12:00 AM. Everyone was so excited to think we were going to continue so late in the evening. The church was full. As always we have many more non-Christians than Christians which always amazes us, but we realize they come for the music and dramas, but that is Ok with us as they receive a strong Christian message through all these. They stayed to the very end. The youth of the church had prepared many dramas and other presentations and Fermin was his usual amazing self as he led the service for four hours. We continue to till and prepare the soil in order to plant the seeds of faith and trust God for the growth.

Molly Nason



Molly Nason is a third year seminary student from Boston University. She had contacted me earlier in the year and asked if I would be able to use her for a month as she needed to do ministry in a different context. Of course I said, "Yes!" She arrived on the 25th of June and we began planning our first ever Youth Week.

We took the first week to work with and train our church youth leaders to prepare them to be the youth counselors during youth week. We had two spiritual retreats and one day of service. During this

day we took packages that the youth had prepared filled with diapers and new born baby clothes to the hospital and visited the women's ward where the new mothers were located. After that we visited the children's wing and gave stuffed animals to all the patients. In each room we prayed for the patients and their families and spoke of God's love for them and that he had a plan and purpose for each one. It was wonderful to see the youth being such great evangelists!



Youth Week

There are no words that can express what an amazing week we had with the youth. We had to cut off registration at 53 as we just don't have the space to work with more than that! Of these, only about 15 were Christians! This was definitely a week of evangelism! We met each day from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM. The days consisted of games, interactive dynamics, drama and dance practices, a Christian movie, workshops on such topics as sexually transmitted diseases, adolescent pregnancy, abortion, dating, post modernism culture, overcoming adversities, family relationships, and the most important, the plan of salvation.



We had services Tuesday and Thursday with each of the four groups presenting a drama of a story from the Bible that they had selected. On Wednesday we held a service in a nearby Haitian community to help motivate the church there. On Thursday morning we went to the same church and painted it inside and out in 1 ½ hours. I think the hardest part was keeping the children entertained and not underfoot! Around 40 of the youth were in attendance at both these events.



Friday was the crown jewel day. After Rosalba presented the plan of salvation, she offered a chance for any to come forward and give their lives to the Lord. We were ecstatic when five of the youth came forward!

That evening we held our closing service with our musicians from Bombita. Again the church was full to the brim. I was a bit concerned as it was quite raucous, more so than usual, and I thought no one will come forward after all that confusion and disorder. However, it was the plan of our adversary to disrupt the service, but our God is greater than all those who try to interfere with His Holy Spirit. When Fermin began to preach, our youth leaders circled around the church and began to pray. The noise stopped. The disrupters left and the Holy Spirit began to move. When Fermin called anyone forward who wanted to commit their lives to Christ, none came forward but we knew the Spirit was moving as we could see many people moved to tears. So Fermin invited any who wanted prayer to come forward. Soon, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the people had come forward. Our leaders made a circle on the altar platform and he asked any who wanted to accept Christ to come to us. We were soon praying with six new believers!



Youth Sunday

Our youth Sunday was a special day as we had two American teams in attendance. One team from Georgia had worked to construct the church and the other is the team from Brandon, Florida, that had held our youth camp for us two times. It was exciting for them to see the fruit of their labors. The youth presented their dances, dramas and other

presentations. During the sermon time, I invited a number of youth to come forth and speak about what the week had meant to them. They said the week was marvelous, but the best part was when they accepted Christ!



We have now begun to work with the new Christians because the pressure on them is tremendous. Already some people are making fun of them saying terrible things about them and our church. This is the work of the adversary and we have to help strengthen these new believers so they can withstand the attack that is now coming against them! Please pray for these 11 new believers!

As I sat in my house Sunday evening with a group of our new believers, I just marveled at their stories. One, a sixteen year old boy, shared how he prayed that God would give him a sign and he received a sharp pain in his chest. He didn't come forward Friday morning, but that evening, he again asked for a sign. The same pain attacked his chest. He asked yet again for a strong confirmation and he said the pain was so intense that he knew he must come forward!

Our work will continue not only with these new believers, but we will continue to work with the other youth that were in attendance as well as other youth that could not come due to our limited spaces. God will continue to bless our work and we will continue to be criticized for it. But I consider it a compliment as Christ was criticized for working with non-Christians as well!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for God's work here in the Dominican Republic. I couldn't be here if it weren't for your amazing support!

Prayer Requests:

For the youth leaders of our church

For the new believers that accepted Christ during Youth Week

For Molly as her father passed away and she had to return immediately to the U.S.

For continued good health and energy to work with the youth!



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