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Colegio Evangélico Moriah



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A crazy place to love From page 1

the teachers to work from are rare. Our vision is to see each kid with a workbook in hand. I pray the money will come to buy them for the entire school.

Betsy, president of FOCM, visited us for a few days with her son. We had such a pleasurable time catching up with her, showing her what has improved and what still needs work. The food program has become a very special part of each day for me, and I always look forward to helping out with the children.

Meanwhile, I am amazed at the growth that has occurred both in Kristen and in myself. We learn so much and are so grateful to be a part of the ministry here. When teams bring supplies or money, we love seeing the impact that is made long after the team has left. We love seeing people in the States still being involved and working to help out our dear friends as it is needed. In short, never underestimate the value of doing something, no matter how small.

Thank you all for your support and prayers!

Sincerely, Maryah

PA Team serves in many ways

The 1st Pa. team arrived in Las Colinas Dec. 28 with 23 team members. By Jan. 7, the construction crew and Haitian workers had completed building a small church on Batey Molinito, provided water to the center of the village, built church pews, taught young men to care for machinery and to repair truck motors. Others had painted on the compound, helped in other ministries, and gave them paint to beautify the House of Hope where they live. Every day, the teens and adult leaders provided a wonderful puppet ministry in Molinito, ministering to children and families from another batey. Mirka Ruiz, from the Alliance Churches, facilitated the ministry by leading discussion of the Bible stories and singing for the first 3 days, after which Ketly Pierre, ABC missionary, joined the puppet ministry. They also did a presentation for Christ for the Nations Church, in Batey Esperanza and at Colegio Moriah, teaching the school kids how to utilize the puppets we've left there. The special dedication service and reception in the newly constructed church was a lovely ending as we hugged all the church members who'd helped in so many ways. Many team members had prayed with folk in their homes or shared the love of Jesus in other ways.

The 2nd Pa. team, arriving Jan. 7, included 26 members from 6 States; God put together the largest medical crew we'd had since 1985. They saw more than 1200 patients at 6 clinics, with the last clinic having more than 380 patients! The construction crew, mostly from Maine, installed solar lighting in the Molinito church, built a roof over the huge and newly cleaned cistern there, and repaired "stuff" on the compound. Some taught English and crafts in Colegio Moriah, artists enhanced the church sanctuary with a lovely painting and copper panels on the upstairs windows, and others taught, sang, and preached at the Church. Many worked hard at shoveling and moving huge piles of small rocks to cover all the dirt areas of the compound! All shared the love of Jesus among the team members and with the Haitian people.

~ Peg Thomas



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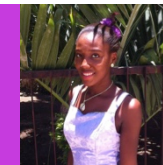
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The Mission of FOCM is:



To offer new hope and opportunity to Haitians in the Dominican Republic through facilitating quality education and health, guided by Christian principles.

Christy goes to college



Read an interview with Colegio Moriah alum Christy Laíne as she prepares to head off to the University to follow her dreams and study medicine.

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A crazy place to live and love

Dear Friends,
School was cancelled again today, and not just for today, but for the rest of the week until Tuesday. There has been a strike going on as the people want better roads and they seem to think the best way of going about that is by having trash, tires, and trees burnt right in front of the school entrance. The smell is putrid and toxic, probably the cause of the recent sickness going around. It's all rather crazy, but this is where we live.

On the way back from helping a friend with errands, I saw two little boys in the road with a large 5 gallon jug of water. One was attempting to put it on the other's shoulder so he could carry it. The kid couldn't bear the weight of it though and so they set it down and seemed to be

discussing what to do. The van I was in was quickly taking them out of sight, but I was able to see the conclusion: the littlest one tipped the jug over and began rolling it down the dirt road. This is where we live.

We live where clean water to drink has to be bought and rolled down a road. We live where to go on strike for something means breaking glass bottles and hacking down trees to burn in the streets. We live where many of my friends grew up eating one meal a day, and where many of my students do the same. We live where parents send their five-year-old child to school with bumps on his head from punishments and without food or lunch money because he didn't do his homework.

This is where we live, and it is where we love. God placed us here not just as English teacher and teacher's aide, but as ambassadors of His love. And that is what we all are, whether we are here in the DR or in the States.

The excitement that we get over the incredible things God is doing in this place is wonderful. Recently, the bathrooms have been painted. There is still a lot of work to be done, but I would say it's a good step in the right direction.

The other week we were at a teachers meeting looking over textbooks that we would love to purchase for next year. Currently there are no such things as student workbooks, and textbooks for

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