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One Century in the Service
of our Lord Jesus Christ

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Newly of His

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Guided by His Word,
Serving in His Love

HOPE 2007 Report

Dear Ones at ARCC,

With the Lord's gracious care, the prayers and support of the saints at ARCC, and the capable leadership of Terry, Amy, and Dean, the Hope 2007 short-term mission has returned safely, and with quite a bit accomplished in the Dominican Republic. We figure there have been about eighty people that have traveled to the DR from ARCC over the years. Ties, and friendships, and working relationships have been developed over the years. This was Dean's eighth trip to the DR, and I am confident he would say each one in a unique way has been a blessing. Though only a week away from our normal routines, the journey has a way of impacting how we process life as a Christian.

Our hosts, David and Virginia Savage and William and Jacqueline Gomez, were wonderful hosts and without them these trips would be much more difficult. The predictability and many comforts of home were graciously provided, and the assistance of Jeremiah and Carolina were incredibly valuable to us.

This year, the children's work was revived. There were two morning sessions and two afternoon sessions at Cien Fuegos. The women had twice the number of children that they expected. There was one activity that was planned where the gals could not find glue and sequins for crowns, but God is in everything, and they later realized that the activity would have been a nightmare with so many children. Some of the meetings had upwards of 70-80 children. This was no small task. Jeremiah helped keep order among the children. Sharon's Spanish background as a teacher proved to be a real help with the children as well as with the rest of the team communicating and answering questions regarding the use of Spanish.

The main building project was a second floor ceiling/floor that had to be poured with concrete. This is the home of the pastor at Yaguita and is beside the church that we have worked on in the past. All the concrete was mixed, carried, and poured by hand. Thankfully, there were around eight Dominicans there to assist in the job of mixing. This was a

two day project to set up tying reinforcement rod for the concrete, and then pouring the whole floor on Friday. The younger guys did the lions' share of things, but we older ones entered into the work as well. The sense of accomplishment and the knowledge that there was a hot meal waiting at the mission house was enough to keep us pressing on.

The other project was a women's dormitory at the camp of William Gomez in the mountains. It takes an hour or so to drive up into the mountains where the views are spectacular. We framed pillar supports for the second floor, then mixed and poured concrete for the ten-foot high pillars. That day, part of the team went to a public school where there is time set aside for "religious training." There, the women had a chance to work among a different group of kids. Let's just say it was a stretching experience for the team since the kids did not know the songs, and the age range of the kids was broad. It was not exactly a controlled environment, but we leave all those things to God!

It was tough leaving cold Lancaster for sunny weather and 85 degrees, but we only experienced minor difficulties. Some colds, allergies, gastro issues, muscle pain, and long traveling days. The trip was a good one, and the benefits far outweigh the exhaustion. Thanks to all at ARCC for enduring all the requests for financial support including the dinners, auctions, sales, and sponsorships. It seems never ending, but the short-term mission experience is rich. Witnessing the Body of Christ in action in another part of the world is a wonderful thing to see. A special thanks to Dave Mueller and all the prayer partners. The cards, notes, thoughts, and prayers from back home were greatly appreciated. God bless you all.

On behalf of the HOPE 2007 Team,

Steve Parmer



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