

Newsletter August/Sept/Oct 2010 Grace & Peace Missionary Fellowship



PICTURES FROM LILAS
MEDICAL OPERATIVE
IN HAITI AUGUST 2010

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I just got back from a meeting with a group of Dominican friends I met through our experience with the Earthquake in Haiti. Grace and Peace had some monies left over after our last trip into Haiti and an opportunity presented itself to help this particular group of friends who were heading into Haiti to treat an estimated 500 refugees. When I first met this group, Lila, their director and I hit it off right away. She was putting her heart and soul into helping the injured. In January, I heard about her refugee house and went there to help. She was overwhelmed with an enormous job of caring for more than 40 severely injured Haitians. As I talked to her in January about her needs, she shared that she was making it day to day. We began helping by providing water and medicine. Once the refugees returned to Haiti, Lila and I lost touch as we

both immersed ourselves back into the programs we have running here in Barahona. Then Lila and I reconnected in June. Bill and I wanted to take the left over monies and disperse them into local works helping the Haitians. I contacted Lila and she asked us to help her with medicine for her Medical Operative, as we call them, in Haiti that was to take place in August. We worked with a team in July from Grace Fellowship to package the medicines and Lila was all set. Today, her and I talked about her experience there and she was so grateful for the abundance of medicines we sent, stating that they were a blessing because each person was able to get everything they needed. Bill also sent 400 pounds of rabbit meat with her to bless those coming to the operative. Most of the time when Dominican ministries do these types of medical operatives, they can only give some of the

needed medicines because funds just don't allow for more. When Bill and I do a medical operative, we like to wait until we have everything we need. When Lila went to Haiti, if someone had multiple conditions, she was able to treat them all. She told me today that in all the years she has been doing this, this was the 3rd most shocking experience she has had in helping the poor. The patients were so sick with fevers, flu, parasites and high blood pressure. Today we talked about implementing a nutrition program by teaching the people there how to cook and what to eat to help lower their blood pressure. In October, we will be helping 135 children from that particular area in Haiti with vitamins, and parasite medicine. Lila said it was one of the hardest trips she has ever taken into Haiti because the people seemed exceptionally helpless. Please continue to pray for Haiti as the rainy season is in full bloom.

Baby Hacer and God's Faithfulness

In April, Keila, my widow director, came to the house and told me about a young couple, Jesusita and Johan, who attended her church. This couple had given birth to their first child, a boy, Hacer Emmanuel. Hacer was born with water on the brain and they needed help raising \$7,000-\$8000 for an operation where a shunt would be inserted and the water would be directed away from the brain. We had just taken our extra money and helped Llane, the gardener, open a small food supply store in his house in an effort to help him and his family live a better life through the profit of this business. We told Keila we would pray and ask the Lord to show us what to do but first we needed to do our homework to see what we were dealing with. We got on the phone and called a few medical advisory contacts we have in America, explained the situation and the diagnosis as best we could to see what would possibly transpire in America in an effort to better understand what we needed to do to help down here. Once we had this information where we were told that since nothing had been done right away for the baby and

now the baby's head was as big as it's body, this baby was going to die. We had no money and decided to just tell Keila we were still working on what all we could do for this family. In reality, because of the advice we received coupled with the fact that there just wasn't any money in the benevolent fund, we weren't planning on doing much of anything except pray. That's not easy for us to say to those we help. But this young couple never gave up. In spite of the fact that we finally did tell them we were so sorry, but there was no money to help, they pushed forward anyway and went on National television. That, in and of itself, was a shock to us because they were from the poorest of the poor sect of society and looked down on most of the time. But the Lord



opened a door and they went on television to make a plea for help. Money began to pour in and everything was paid for except around \$300. The father took out a loan for the remaining \$300 at a very high interest rate and they left for the Capitol of Santo Domingo to get the operation done. Keila came back to the house to tell us that everything was okay. She told us about the loan and we decided that we would help pay that loan back. Llane was making payments of \$1,000 pesos (\$30 dollars) at a time for his food supply store and we committed to giving this money to this couple each time Llane paid. We gave them \$1,000 pesos that week. We felt it was a win win situation for everyone involved. The next week a group came down. There were 3 team members from our home church on this team and they brought with them a 2-week love offering they had taken up in their Sunday School class. They have all been here several times and in the past had brought 2 or 3 of

these love offerings from their Sunday School class. But this time they asked us to meet a need while they were here so they could return to the States with a story of encouragement for those who gave. I almost always go straight to the widows but this time I had an uneasiness in doing that. Then this young couple came to our minds and we knew it was for them. The collection was for \$344. That translated into \$12,693 pesos. His loan payoff was 12,000. We had already paid 1,000 pesos on the loan, so the remaining balance was 11,000. The operation was successful but they were informed that they had to return to the Capitol for a 2nd operation. The trip would cost them 1,000 to get there. There was 693 pesos left for food. God had provided almost to the peso exactly what they needed. The mother of this baby is so full of faith and has not stopped pushing for help for little Hacer. The father shut down and has been struggling both spiritually and mentally since Hacer was born. This little miracle was not only for the baby but also for his parents to show them that God cares and provides at the very moment of need.