



## Grace and Peace Missionary Fellowship April/May 2011

Since December, we've been able to build three new widow houses and are in the process of purchasing land to build a small duplex for our first widower, Rufino and another widow, Nena. The last house we built was for Leoporda. This is the home she has lived in with her 2 young daughters, ages 13 and 16, both with newborn babies as well as her 11-year-old son.



Leoporda's husband, when he died, left her with nothing. She has 8 children, but 5 of them have gone far enough away from our hometown of Barahona, that they are not able to help her. This is the home G&P built for her, her girls, their



babies and her son. She is so grateful. They have NEVER had a bathroom or a place to bathe. What they normally do is wait until it's dark and then bathe in the back of the house. So, along with their home, we built them a larger bathroom, located right behind the house. We are hoping to begin building Rufino and Nena's duplex sometime in May or early June, once the land is in our name. We are up to 80 widows now, as well.

G&P has a wonderful praise report! As many of you know, one of the programs we established about 5 years ago was our Missionaries Around the World. This program is multifaceted. First it represents our tithe from the

General Fund. Secondly, we want to provide a nice place for worn out missionaries to come and enjoy a meal or a weekend where they do not have to do one thing. This is one of the very first goals we had in 1987 when G&P was established. One of the missionaries we support is Bob and Mary Johnston. Bob and Mary lived in Haiti for 15 years until Mary was accosted. Bob moved his family to our side of the island and began traveling back and forth to Haiti continuing in the work he established there. During their 25 years as missionaries, Bob and Mary have been hijacked, struck by lightning, their 18-year-old son returned to the States only to flip his truck and is now a quadriplegic. We've become very good friends with Mary and Bob as they needed much encouragement while embarking on building a 200-man Pastors' dorm for a school they had started

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here in the DR. They dominantly minister to Haitians and this is a school to train them and then return them to their homeland to plant a church. Bob and Mary are what Bill and I call "True Missionaries". They were the very first missionaries that reached out to our family and helped us acclimate to the culture. In September of last year, Bob called us saying Mary's lupus was acting up, would we pray for her, so we did. Then from September through March of this year, we would keep tabs on Mary to see how she was doing, but she was only getting worse. Finally one day Bill called Bob and said, "Karen and I would be happy to help get Mary back to the States. It's none of our business, but maybe she needs a thorough check up." He said, "No, Bill, I'm taking her to the Capitol of Santo Domingo." We were very concerned but just kept praying. A few days later they called and said she was diagnosed with leukemia. We were in shock. Bill shifted into, "Okay, what can we do now," gear. He called the Cleve-

land Clinic and asked for help. The Cleveland Clinic said to get her there and they would take care of her for free. Bob and Mary boarded a plane the next day but Mary's condition had deteriorated so bad, Bob just drove her to the nearest Emergency Room as soon as they landed. He said he knew he was losing her. About a week passed and I called to see how Mary was doing. Bob said she was going through a round of chemo and he would keep us posted. Then last week I called Bob again to see what we could do. Bob was so happy he could hardly talk. She finished her last chemo, they checked her and she was leukemia free! This couple has the most amazing modern-day missionary testimony Bill and I have every heard. We've insisted they need to write a book! Just for your encouragement, your donations are reaching the Dominicans and the Haitians alike through us and through 11 other missionaries in our Missionaries Around the World program. Thank you for your faithfulness.

The kids program now has 3 locations. The first location is behind the mission house where there are 48 children enrolled. The second location is at a local church in our immediate neighborhood where there are 90 enrolled. Just this month we added another local church's program to our list and they have an average of 130 enrolled there. This last program was established by a pastor who does body work on vehicles as a means to support his family and the Children's Program. We were able to give all his kids Christmas presents and in March, Millwood, Inc., of Vienna, Ohio came and poured an addition onto their very tiny patio so the children could have more room for their activities. We also blessed them with children's bibles that Faith Family Church of Canton, Ohio sent to us this past year. We provide all three programs with eggs three times a week. They are taught the Word of God as well as manners and things along those lines. Bill is about ready to sell his first big lot of pigs next month. It's been a long time coming and he's very excited about the many

doors the Lord has opened for him to help supplement the mission. We have always wanted to build homes for pastors in our immediate area because so many of them are very poor. And we have supplemented the widow program from the farm and the children's program with duck eggs. But the pig project will help us first and foremost carry the weight of the cost to run the farm, provide for the widows additional food items we otherwise cannot give, and then the second phase will give us the resources to help those needing operations we otherwise cannot help with as well as begin building churches and houses for the pastors. As we approach summer, we're excited to have 2 interns coming to help, Traci Todd and her friend Julia. We will have Keila and Yefri's wedding at the Mission House and we've opened our mission house up to local nationals wanting to bring their American groups to a safe place with good food in a much more spiritual atmosphere than the local hotels. We host our very largest outside group of 45 in July!

