



Grace and Peace Missionary Fellowship June/July/August 2011

Remembering back to when the Haiti earthquake hit, Karen and I can hardly believe that it was 18 months ago. Because of your generous donations, we were able to help more than 1,000 families. Pictured here is Cis.



We wrote about her last year in our newsletter that covered the earthquake. We stumbled upon her and her family when her children began to go to our kids program and then found them living with a family that the Lord has continually put before us. They were living with the grandmother of the baseball captain, Davie, whose games Keila and Karen kept interrupting when they would drive the 4-wheelers to visit a sick widow in that area. Then

someone donated baseball outfits and we took them there. Then we evangelized them and Davie's mother rededicated her life and to this day is on fire for the Lord. Once we heard about the new Haitian children coming to our program, Karen started digging to see what she could find out about their family. This is when we met Cis. And Cis was living with Davie's grandmother, Chicha, along with 14 other family members. Cis was whisked to our town in the midst of the earthquake chaos along with two of her 5 children to get treatment for their injuries. If you remember Katrina and the chaos that went on there (and this is America, where we strive for excellence), just think about a natural disaster in a 3rd world country where chaos is a way of life. This is how it was in Haiti and the Dominican Republic in the days following the tragic earthquake. So,

Cis and her 2 children were treated for their injuries and turned out on the street because there was no other way to do it. The Dominicans said, "Find your way back," and many of them did. But, Cis did not. She was wandering around our town when Davie's grandmother, Chicha, spotted her. Cis was confused and hungry. Chicha took her home to her already 14 member household where the number then went to 17. They had no idea where their food



would come from day to day when it was only 14 of them. To Chicha, that wasn't important. It was her duty to help Cis and her 2 children, pictured above. In comes Grace and Peace...again! To make a long story short, we put Chicha into the widow program,

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because she qualified and we put Cis in for 18 months, which was the time the Dominican government was allowing all Haitians to stay in their country until they sought to return to Haiti or sought to stay in the DR through the customary legal process. G&P bought Chicha and Cis a bed so they didn't have to sleep on the floor and finally rented a small Dominican home for Cis and her children because tension was mounting each time we would go there with that many sharing a house that measured 20 x 20 at most. So Cis had her own place and we were providing her with food. At first Cis did not know if her other 3 children were dead or alive but through monetary help from G&P she did locate them after about 2 months and all were well. Last month, we asked Cis what she wanted to do because the 18 months were up. She said she just found out her husband died and she wanted to return to Haiti for her smallest child, a boy, because he needed to be with her from here on out. We gave her the money to return and asked

her to make a plan so we could help her get on her feet and help her generate income. She went back for the funeral and brought the small boy back and said she knew what she wanted to do. She wanted to sell clothing in the market. She asked if we would pay her rent one last time and help her buy the clothing bundle that would give her what she needed to start her life on her own. We gave Cis \$200 for everything. She was so excited to have this opportunity and is doing really well. She has decided to stay in the DR and seek legal status because she is so fearful of Haiti and the continual threat of another earthquake. When Karen and I went last May, there were tremors and the border crossing was escalating to the dangerous level, so we understood where she was coming from. We told her we would support her in her decision and feel that she will do really well selling clothing and making her life here in the DR.

We had a wedding at the house in June, as well. Keila, the Dominican director over the widow program got married to Yefri, pronounced Jeffrey. There were 140 guests in attendance and Keila looked beautiful. Her and Yefri have had a very strong start as each short term missions teams visiting us this year have all brought her items for her new house or gave her a monetary gift. Her and Yefri found a house to rent one street over from the mission house. They moved into their new rented home with everything they needed except living room furniture which they will get sometime in the next year. At



4:00, it had just started to rain, but it stopped in time for the 4:30 cere-



mony! In the Widow Program, we finally have 2 plots of land we will use to build 2 Dominican style duplexes close to Keila's mother's house. We had hoped they would be finished by now but as Karen and I have become accustomed to things here, what takes 1 month in America will usually take a year here, so we are right on schedule!

The widow program added 4 new widows this month, taking our widows program count to 81. The children's program continues to grow and we now have another church with 40 children on the waiting list. The farm is producing and has begun to offset it's operating costs. Right now we have a team of 38 staying with us. They work with a National we know and said they love staying at the Mission House because it's nice and comfortable. We will host another team of 39 beginning July 19th that works with the same National. In closing, please keep Cis and her children in your prayers as she embarks on her own here. Have a great Summer. Bill & Karen

