



Grace and Peace Missionary Fellowship September/October 2011



The first Widow duplex is complete! This particular house has an amazing story behind it. Our very first widower, Rufino came to us last year. He is blind from cataracts. He was living in the mountains with a sister and his nephews were physically abusing him. It is so unfortunate that in most 3rd world countries, the handicapped are ridiculed and abused because the people are not educated in how to care for them. There are no social programs for them and they become a burden for their families. So when Rufino came down out of the mountains to live with another sister that went to Keila's church, Keila told us about him. We placed him in the Widow Program as our first widower. Rufino spends the better part of his day praying and singing in Keila's church. When we need someone to agree in prayer, Rufino is one of the first ones I go to. Once Rufino was placed in the Widow Program, we began to work on housing for

him. He was living with his sister and she had no husband and several children, so Rufino placed more stress on this poor family, even with the provision of the food. Starting in December of 2010, G&P stepped up the widow house building because funds had become available. In spite of our shaken economy, the Lord saw fit to make a way for this. Right now, we are in the process of building our 2nd duplex. That will make a total of 6 houses so far that have been built. We were able to negotiate and buy 2 small pieces of land that G&P could own to build these last 2 duplexes. When those opportunities arise, it makes a way to continue to provide for other widows to have a home once the widow occupying the house either moves or goes to be with the Lord. So Rufino went from homeless and abused to taken care of and he now has his own little house. All within one year. If I know Rufino, he has stepped up his praise and worship to 10 hours a day instead of 8.

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As most of you already know, Bill had a transient stroke on August 7th. He's home now and carries a picture of exactly how it happened in his pocket. No surprise there! Apparently Bill was born with 2 secondary veins going into the carotid veins where the one on the left is very small and the one on the right is very large. They are supposed to be the same size. While working overhead for a few days August 6th and 7th, the one on the left collapsed. Bill called me on the 7th and said he had never in his life had such a headache. I didn't know at that time that the feeling on his right side had been compromised. Had I known that, I would have flown him home on the 8th. He withheld that little piece of info from me. No surprise there. His reason? He didn't want to alarm me. Finally on Monday the 8th he started to be concerned when he woke up with the headache and the feeling on his right side no better. What does he do? He goes to the farm to see what he can do. Neither of us realized he had had this stroke. Apparently he couldn't do what he had set out to do at the farm, so he decided to divulge all the details to me that night. I told him I was flying him home and he

reluctantly agreed. He flew home on the 10th and I drove him straight to the Cleveland Clinic emergency room. They admitted him and he stayed there 3 days while they ran multiple tests. On Friday, the 12th, they released him late in the evening. The nurses told me Bill's room was like a revolving door as doctors went in and out answering Bill's 1,000 questions of how this happened. By the time we left, Bill knew everyone all the way down to the cleaning ladies. I'm not kidding. His prognosis was very good since this stroke never made it's way to his brain. It reached the brainstem and stopped. Today he has 95 percent of all feeling in his right side and he is doing really well. On the way home from the Cleveland Clinic many close friends and family were calling and he was telling them, "Oh, it's no big deal. I'll be back in the DR shortly." After he finished speaking to his well-wishers, I politely...okay, not so politely...told him, "Honey, everyone agrees that you need a nice long break," to which he replied, "You mean people know about this?" in a rather emphatic tone. I told him, "Yes, honey, you needed prayer so I emailed everyone." He was quiet for a second and then said, "You didn't tell them we were taking a break, did you?" In a little stronger but loving tone (at least I thought so) I said, "Yes, Bill, I told them we need a break. It's been 12 years of nonstop pedal to the metal work. I'm at peace with a break and you will need to grasp that because no matter what, you are not returning to the DR for many months." He fumed and pouted for a few minutes and then I said, "Are we on the same page?" And he said, "I guess. You're the boss." Now, any one of you who know Bill and I intimately know full well that although I am a direct person, I am in no way in charge. We have always worked together as a strong team because our talents are so different then the other's. So, I quipped back, "Yep, you're right. I'm definitely in charge of this department for awhile." Bill didn't know how to respond to that because he is not accustomed to any type of statement even remotely close to me being in charge. So, he pouted some more, but I knew from past experience he would accept it as he saw how he let his health go and how important it was for him to get better for all involved, especially himself. That brings us to today. I am headed down to the DR for one month to get everything in order. Bill and I will take a break for a few months and we

need the Nationals in charge of each ministry to take care of things while we are here. I leave September 3rd and will return October 1st. We will continue to interview and place widows into the program. Keila is in charge of that. Jose is in charge of the children's program at the compound and Keila's mother's church has charge of the 2nd children's program. All total now we have 160 children and hope to raise that to 200 by December as the Lord sees fit through His provision. The farm is overseen by Dauri. I will spend most of my time training all the leaders what to do when needs arise. This will be a good test of how well we have prepared them for the day Bill and I are called home to be with the Lord. My guess is that our Dominican team will surprise us and do an amazing job...possibly a better job then when our presence is always there. That's usually how the Lord works. We would appreciate all of you keeping Bill's health on your prayer list and joining Bill and I in our prayers for the mission daily. We have lived by faith for 12 straight years. Now our strength to rely on the Lord will be tested at a new exciting level. We love and appreciate all of you.

