

July, August & September 2021

*Evangelism Program
Prison Ministry
Hospital Ministry
Church Planting
Widow Program
Children's Bible Program
Love United
Medical Missions*

Legalism is seeking to achieve forgiveness from GOD and acceptance by GOD through your own obedience to GOD. I found that on the internet when I googled "Bible versus that address legalism". Our hearts just break when we meet a Dominican, and for that matter, an American, who is afraid to accept the Lord because of the numerous "rules" churches can place on them. Colossians 2:20-23 says, "Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: 'Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!'" These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings." The ONLY way to heaven is by faith in Jesus Christ alone.



Widow
Maria
Altagracia

This is one of our new widows, Widow Maria Altagracia. We sat down with her and went through our usual questions to be sure she qualified to be in the Widow Program. She did. Then we started to talk to her about the Lord. She said she knew all about Christianity. I suppose that would be the version she sees each day she steps outside her meager home.



We've learned, far too many times over the years, that most Christian neighbors will cross the street and purposely ignore you if you aren't one of them. It's heartbreaking to hear over and over. Maria knew very well the legalistic version of Christianity. The churches there teach that you have to clean up your life and only then can you accept the Lord. She's 66 years old and can't accept Christ into her heart, even though she knows that the only way to heaven is by faith in Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. She knows that. But because she resents her son-in-law because he consistently beats her daughter, sometimes right in

front of her, she won't be allowed to accept Him. Keila and Claritza (a sold out Grace and Peace widow) ministered to her heavy that day. They shared Matthew 11:28-29, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." And Maria responded and said "Yes, I need the Lord." Sometimes all it takes is a little bit of time to defuse the lies that hold so many back from the Lord.

In the last newsletter, we told the story about Adalenny who was brutally attacked with a knife in a crime of passion. We first held the Bible study at her house, but now we hold it at her sister's house. Her sister's name is Iris and she is an alcoholic. Iris has not committed her life to the Lord yet and we're pretty sure she thinks she has to clean her life up before she can. Please remember Iris in your prayers. One day, while Keila was teaching Adalenny and her sister, Iris, another brother, Freddie, came and joined them..



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Freddie asked Keila if Grace and Peace could help him with an ulcer that he had. Word has gotten out



about the Cuban method we were taught back in January 2010 by a Cuban doctor who came to work with us to take care of the earthquake victims who had made their way to our town. We have lost count of the number of ulcers that have been healed by this simple method. Keila went back to the Mission House after the Bible study and put together the packets Freddie would need and dropped them off so she could explain exactly what he needed to do. He followed her directions pretty well.



He told us he constantly has ulcers develop from the smallest of scratches, is constantly in pain and has gone to the best clinics around and has not been given any answers as to why this keeps happening to him. We told him we will help him no matter how many he develops.

We have 2 widows who love to minister to the other widows. One is Dorcas and the other one is Claritza. As the whole world has felt the financial crunch from COVID, we have had to be very strategic about how we use extra

gifts that come into the ministry. But Claritza's house was just about falling in on her. We stepped out in faith and built her a new casita. She is such a faithful sister and gladly goes wherever we need her to go. We're blessed to have her in our widow program. This is the last house Babai built before he passed away this summer. Before:



After;



Here is Claritza in front of her new house, just so happy.



We welcomed another widow just last month, Emilia Alcantara, into the Widow Program. Emilia didn't know the Lord, so our team went to see her and share the Gospel. Emilia's good friend, Augustina, was visiting, so after we shared with them, we asked both of them if they wanted to accept the Lord, and they said, "Yes!"



A little something from our heart: Bill and I feel so bad that we cannot hold our banquet again this year. With our next newsletter, we will outline things we considered. We need to get back down to the Dominican at the end of December to take care of several important things. Along with our next newsletter, we will be sending our giving form for those of you who can help jump start 2022 for Grace and Peace. Although the world has slowed down over the last 2 years, we definitely faced many, many challenges, but we literally needed 10 pages to share all the amazing "God stop" stories of how the Lord placed us here at the right moment and there at the right moment. We are also working on videos to share with you of the work that transpired in 2021. All of these stories you read about in our newsletters or that you see on Facebook are because all of you have been so faithful in helping us meet the needs through your gifts throughout the years. We are about to complete our 21st year in the Dominican Republic, getting geared up to start year 22. What a privilege it is to be called to serve the Lord there. What a blessing to see what He has built as we serve the poor Dominicans there. We have so much love and appreciation for all of you.