

Grace and Peace Missionary Fellowship

January-March 2023



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

EVANGELISM



Bill praying for Claudio



Claudio Samboy is 20 years old. He lives in the same neighborhood where our Mission House is. When Claudio was very young, he was part of a children's program in a local church in downtown Barahona. Although he began learning the Word at a young age, outside influences stopped him from pursuing a walk with the Lord. Over the last month or so Bill has been sharing the Gospel at a local hot spot where motor concho taxis sit and wait for work. Claudio was one of them and said he couldn't shake the love he felt coming from Bill and also coming from the Lord and he was so intrigued. Finally the day came and Claudio committed his life to the Lord. He told us he decided he no longer wanted to live like his parents nor his friends.

The fact that Claudio's parents reject the Gospel has always bothered him. Even with this reality, he now has so much peace in his heart and he emphasized that he knows he is loved. Claudio was very honest about turning his life over, but Bill and Keila were able to reach him that day. Bill has been given a gift of teaching and is great at addressing all the reasons people reject Christ. We have been taking Claudio to a friend's church in Barahona and he said he is very comfortable there and feels at home. This church we go to, in particular, is not legalistic, which is the No. 1 reason a lot of Dominicans reject the Gospel. We ask for prayer as Bill continues to share the Gospel at this hotspot, that the Lord would open other hearts to accept Him.

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January

February

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WHAT WE ARE UP AGAINST I'm sure if we've said it once, we've said it 100 times. The legalism challenges we face when we evangelize is such a force, it stops many Dominicans from making a commitment to walk with the Lord. It absolutely breaks our heart. But we get right back out there and continue to preach in light of these challenges. It's exciting for us to share all the awesome "God Stop" stories when someone says, "Yes, I want to live for the Lord." But for this next story, that was not the case. This is Gustave Fernet and his family. They are Haitians that have migrated across the border and now live in the Dominican Republic.



Pictured is his wife, Carmene and 4 of their 6 children. Although this story is sad, we believe the ending will be anything but that. This will give you better insight on how to pray for us as we share the Gospel. The story unfolds when Bill started a Friday morning prayer meeting in a small barrio called Maria Montez last year. Gustave came on and off but was resistant right from the beginning to accepting Christ. But he would show up, listen, reject the Gospel and

leave. This happens a lot so to say Bill and I had him on a prayer list would not be telling the truth. He was part of the, "Father, soften their hearts and open their eyes," prayer. "Show them we are not asking them to accept a life of legalism but freedom in You." That prayer. Bill might have mentioned him by name once if that. Fast forward to January of 2023 when we had our banquet. One thing the Lord laid on our heart was to start helping the families of the children in our programs with house maintenance needs. We knew many of them lived in houses that most American's would not be able to comprehend. Shacks. Not American shacks, but 3rd world country shacks. We had a strong pull to raise money to meet those needs. The kids in our programs come for years. Many remain faithful until they graduate high school. Our team in the Dominican gathered information in the 5 different areas where we have a program, targeting the families with the highest needs. Guess who made that list? Gustave and his family. Now, I have that information but the only thing I say is, "When can we schedule a time to go out and evangelize this first family from the kids program?" We set it all up and off we go. What took us there was that they had a dirt floor and needed us to pour a cement one for them. Yes, we show the Love of Christ through humanitarian aide, but first and foremost we share the Gospel. We make it clear that any humanitarian provision is from the Lord and not from us. We set out to

share the Gospel with the first family, and there is Gustave and his wife. They have 6 children in our program. Here is their story. They both migrated from Haiti many years ago. Because Gustave is a man of few words, we still don't have the whole story about any spiritual background for him. But for Carmene, she told us when she first arrived in the DR, she lived in another village where both Dominicans and Haitis lived. She had accepted Christ there when she was 20 years old and walked with the Lord for 3 years. Then in the 3rd year, a Dominican was murdered. The family of the gentleman that was murdered found every Haitian home they knew of and burned it to the ground. Gustave and Carmene lost their home that day and had to flee to Maria Montez to live with Carmene's sister. It was no longer safe for them to even consider rebuilding there. This is when Carmene walked away from the Lord. Her heart is very hard as is Gustave's heart. He's been listening to Bill for a very long time on and off. For those of you who know Bill personally, he and Keila are a power team when it comes to sharing the Gospel. We always tease those 2 that anyone they encounter and share the Gospel with is doomed and will be their victims sooner or later. What a gift they both have. We will not give up on Gustave and Carmene. This story is too amazing to just be a random coincidence. Bill and Keila spent a long time sharing with them that day. Those 2 just will not budge. A stubborn attitude with Bill energizes him, but these 2 are a very different story. We appreciate you joining us in believing for their salvation.