

April, May and June 2022

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

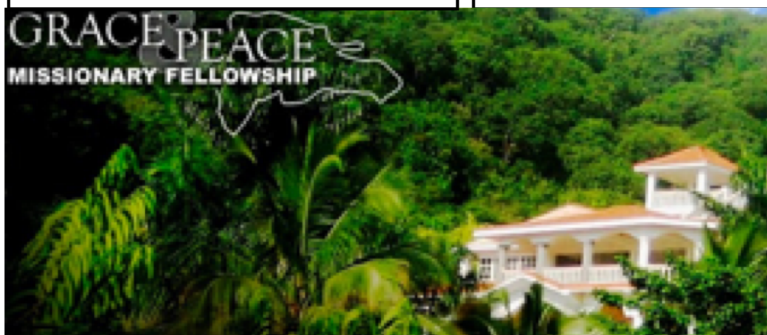
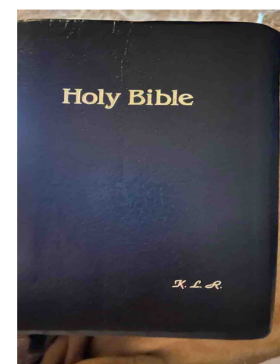
"A PRAYER FOR 17 YEARS"

By: Karen Rumple

In 2002, while in the Dominican Republic, I broke my neck. From 2002 until 2005, life was difficult. In 2005, I returned to the Cleveland Clinic for help and during that period of 2005-2006, I lost my Bible. This Bible was my prized possession. When I returned to the Dominican in 2006, I found the case but it was empty. I was heartbroken. That Bible had so many notes and markings, especially from our first year on the mission field in 2000. I was in the Word constantly as our family adjusted to a whole new world. God met us there in the Dominican that first year in a way that I can't even describe. And my Bible was marked up more that year than any other year of my walk with the Lord. I honestly can't say when I realized I had lost my Bible in 2005-2006, because I was being treated at the Cleveland Clinic that whole year and was very sick. My devotions were short, if I had them. I prayed mostly, as opposed to reading. From the time I realized it was gone up until the beginning of July 2022, I never stopped asking the Lord to bring it back to me. I know a lot of our life was still

packed in Rubbermaid bins, so I went through those bins at least 3 times, then asked a friend to go through them in case I missed it. I always came up empty handed. I can't say I prayed every day, because I only did that when I realized it was gone. But I know I prayed several times a month all these years. Fast forward to the beginning of July 2022. I do know that I prayed the first week of July. My prayer was, "Lord, if it was taken, and I know that is far reaching, please convict that person to return it. If it was lost, I know there is no way to identify me because I never wrote my name on the inside, but somehow bring it back to me." Bill and I came home this summer to attend our family reunion. On July 2nd, as we were sitting there visiting with family, in walks my cousin and she says, "Karen, what are your initials?" I said, "KLR". She said, "When I was going through mom's things after she passed away, I found a Bible with the initials KLR on it. I believe it's your Bible." I was

speechless. Being human, I almost didn't even believe it because Bill's cousin who passed away was Kathleen Rumple before she got married, so I had to look up her initials to see if maybe it was her Bible. Her middle initial was "J". Then I knew it was mine. Bill drove to Rootstown a few days later and picked it up. How my Bible ended up at my Aunt Marge's house is beyond me. The only thing I could come up with is that in 2006, Bill and I went to visit/pray with her as we generally did every couple of years, and I had taken my Bible and left it there. For someone reading this who has prayed many years for a special need; be encouraged. He hears your prayer and sees your need.



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In June, Grace and Peace hosted 2 teams. As we normally do, we evangelized a week at a time in same neighborhood, going house to house sharing the Gospel. Going back to the same area day after day, and spending time with the same families, shows them that we want a relationship with them. Here are a few stories of those who gave their heart to the Lord.



This is Gustavo Vargas. Gustavo gave his heart to the Lord 15 years ago. He was the men's group leader at his first church for 6 years. He moved and became the evangelism leader in his new church for 3 years after that. Then Gustavo completely stopped serving the Lord. A little background. In the Dominican Republic, the poor do not have the money to get married. So they live together. Gustavo was "married" during this 9 years to his first "wife" but she and her family became extremely difficult and worked hard at encouraging him to stop serving the Lord. He said he was under so much persecution from them, he walked away and fell into a deep depression. As we shared with him this past June, he said all he could think about was the peace the Lord gave him, the joy he had and all of the great moments he felt when he was walking with the Lord. Once he walked away from the Lord, he and his first "wife" broke up. He is now living with his "second" wife. He told us nothing could compare to

the 9 years he was in church, so he recommitted his life to the Lord with us that day. Now his prayer is that he can share the Gospel with his new family so they can commit their lives to the Lord and get this great peace and joy that only the Lord can give. Gustavo has started to go to a healthy church very close to our mission house. His mother's prayers of 40+ years have been answered.



This is Yuliesi Feliz. Yuliesi's mother had been telling her about the Lord for many years. The number one reason she rejected the Lord is because she couldn't get along with a few difficult neighbors. So, she thought, "How can I walk with the Lord when I can't get along with my neighbors because they are so difficult?" It's very unfortunate that legalism is so deeply rooted in our area that when you have neighbors being difficult with you and you don't act right, that you are not allowed to be a Christian. We have spent a lot of time in our 23 years helping them get free from the rules through the Word. The Lord has blessed and made inroads in some of the churches we visit there, but there's a lot more work to do. Another reason she wasn't allowed to be a Christian is because Yuliesi enjoys music and dancing. The week we shared with Yuliesi, we were able to show her that the Lord wants her just the way she is, that He will bring about the changes in her life and she is only to trust Him. She said she is so

thankful we came and shared the Gospel the way we did because now she understands so much more and is very excited to have Him as her Lord and Savior and to walk with Him.



This is Julia Feliz. She had been witnessed to many times, but never felt ready to commit her life to the Lord. Then one day her young daughter was choking on a fruit seed. She went to the local hospital and got the seed out. Or so they thought. That night she started choking again but this time they said she had to go to Santo Domingo, because a small piece of the seed had lodged where they could not get at it. She told the Lord she would walk with Him if he allowed her daughter to live. Her daughter got the help she needed, but Julia said she didn't keep her promise to serve the Lord. The week we went to her house and shared the Gospel, she said she knew the Lord was giving her another chance. She accepted Him that day and is asking for prayer that she will have the strength to walk with Him and learn all she can learn about Him. Keila and Yefri will be picking her up and taking her to their church because she said there are no churches close to her home that she would feel comfortable in. We would ask that you keep these 3 in your prayers.