

July, August and September 2022

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

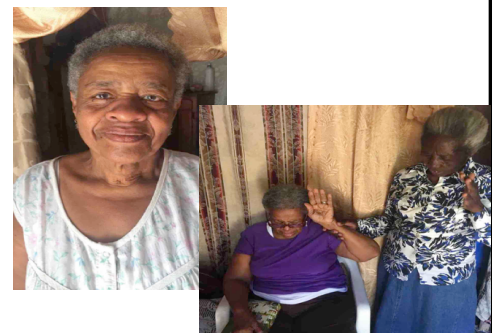
SAVE THE DATE
On Friday, January 13, 2023, we will be holding our 19th Annual Fundraising banquet at Aulizio's Banquet Hall in Niles, Ohio. We will send out our Banquet Reservation form in the coming months and look forward to seeing everyone there!

WIDOW SANTA CHRISTINA ARIAS

When Keila and I went to see a new widow by the name of Santa Christina, as soon as we walked into her house, we could tell right away that she was a practicing catholic. The national religion in the Dominican is Catholicism so over the years we have had quite a few widows who are Catholic in the program. We had 2 hurdles with that. The first was to train our Dominican team in understanding catholicism and that we must allow the widow to go to her church until she wished to

change, if ever. That took a very long time, truth be told. Secondly, I also had to train our team, once they were willing to bend on that first issue, to use the person's Catholic Bible to show them the way to Christ. I think that was the catalyst in getting them to understand better. So, after visiting with Santa for a short while, who was quite stern and quiet with us as we were trying to get to know her a little better, we left. I told Keila, "Well, we all have our work cut out for us on Santa." She just sighed and said, "Yes, we do." But guess what? After we ministered to her for only a short time, Santa gave her heart to the Lord. All I can say is that this woman truly loved God and once we used her own Bible, she saw the truth in the scriptures and gave her heart. Here's a little bit of her spiritual journey. As we mentioned earlier, Santa was raised a strict Catholic. Her brother, Pedro, became a christian at some point over the years and he started telling her there was more and that Jesus Christ wanted a personal relationship with her. She said he was a very humble man and because of that, her curiosity was peaked. She told

us that because they were both very "religious", she just lived her life for God just as he did for Jesus because they are one in the same. We took her Catholic Bible and gave her the scriptures on salvation. When she read them, she looked up and said, "This is amazing," and we led her to the Lord. The next thing that happened surprised all of us. She said she was going to pray because she knew she needed to attend a church that professed a personal commitment to the Lord as their savior if she was going to continue to learn about this new experience. Pedro, her brother, has since passed away, but he prayed for Santa for over 30 years. She said his example, when he was alive, influenced her to make this decision. That's a huge testimony to all of us.



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SO MUCH TO SHARE

It was a busy summer, to say the least, in hosting 3 teams in June, and a medical team in August. Teams are such a blessing to our ministry. We would love for supporters and supporting churches to consider a short term missions trip in 2023.

By now most of you know what happened with Bill in early August with an abscessed tooth, but for those of you who don't, I'll give you the cliff notes. First, though, what the Lord did for both of us this year needs to be heard because our God is so faithful. Especially for Bill, the Lord took care of him one miracle after the other. In April, I'm guessing most of you don't know, but I had to fly back to America with a possible brain bleed. I woke up April 8th in the Dominican with the worst "brain freeze" type headache I had experienced in my life. I waited about a week and it didn't subside, so I flew home and went straight to the Cleveland Clinic emergency room. After a few tests, they ordered an MRI to see if I had a brain tumor. Seriously, do Bill and I ever do medical emergencies small? Broken neck, 2 strokes, 3 lb. tumor and now this. Satan has tried desperately to take us out over the last 22 years. Our trust is in the Lord because we know we aren't going to go home one minute before he ordains it. In going through this, having to fly home from a 3rd world country, it can be taxing. Long story short, after seeing three specialists, it was determined that the pain was from my broken neck all those years ago. I received treatment and am doing well. I had a lot of time to contemplate things during this short period, so I did a lot of thinking

about what we had set up to help us in an emergency. I never checked with Missionary Flights International because I knew they were a solid help in time of need. In April, before I left, I checked with Keila to see if our Life Flight Helicopter insurance in the Dominican was up to date. The cost is so minimal, just \$56 total for both of us to be taken by helicopter to any hospital we choose on the island. When she checked, she saw that she had not paid the premium for 2023. It was paid right then and I headed back to the U.S. to get some help. I was well enough in May to return to the Dominican. Bill and I hosted 3 teams in June and then flew back for the month of July because I had more follow-up doctor's appointments. On August 1st, the night before Bill was supposed to head back to the Dominican to host a medical team, he said he had a toothache. I gave him Tylenol and he was fine. After landing in the Dominican the next day, he said his pain was significantly worse. I immediately got ahold of our dentist and she said it was an abscess. She had called in an antibiotic but Bill and I thought it was for the root canal and in our busyness just forgot. What's so amazing is that the medical team heading there that week had an infectious disease doctor with them. Since we all know everything happens for a reason, Bill and I were trying hard to figure out what we were going to learn through this lovely trial and something very important came to light. We were under the impression that Missionary Flights International, as we were told 22 years ago, would bring us back to the U.S. in an emergency situation.

I immediately contacted them to bring Bill home only to find out if he could not walk, they could not transport him. After some digging, I found life flight insurance that would not only bring us back to the U.S. if we were seriously sick, but they will also bring us back if we passed while there. The Lord brought so much more than that to the light for us. As the doctors prepared to go down and do medical clinics through Grace and Peace, I was in constant contact with them. They told me what to get Bill to tide him over until they got there. I couldn't find any of the medicines they told me he needed except one. I finally found alternatives, confirmed with them that they were okay and we got him on the right medicine. The day before their arrival, he was so sick, he was taken by helicopter to a hospital in the Capitol. He had not eaten or drank for 2.5 days, and he could barely talk. He was given IV fluids there, then they made a demand for a large sum of money and Bill checked himself out of the hospital and went back home, a 4-hour drive. The team of doctors arrived later that day and started IV fluids and IV antibiotics and he was slowly getting better. Next hurdle? Getting him home. God is so good. I was able to get him on the very flight the medical team was on and we got him home August 13th. We took him right away to see the dentist and then he saw an endodontist and they took care of everything and he is doing well. Thank you for all of your prayers of support. We are doing good and looking forward to returning to the DR in January of 2023.