

April, May & June 2021

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

At the end of February, a young woman by the name of Adalennys was brutally attacked in a crime of passion where she was stabbed 15 times. Most of the lacerations were from the neck up. A lot of crimes in the DR are crimes of passion. Grace and Peace could not just sit still without helping in some way. Keila and I took a Bible study to her house starting in March after we decided to take her to a dermatologist so she wouldn't scar as bad as she would have had she not gotten the proper care. We still go each Tuesday and now her sister has joined the Bible study. Her son, David, who is 18 and very soft spoken will listen in when he is there. One day I decided to talk to him about what happened to his mom. In the Dominican, with almost every crime we knew about, there was a retaliation crime from the victim's family. I explained to David that the Lord would 100% take care of this. We knew the person who attacked her fled town, so there was no arrest made. I asked him to please not ruin his own life because of what happened to his mom. She was with me when I spoke to him and she let him know that she fully agreed with me. I asked him to please not even consider retaliating. He said it would be very hard, but he would take

my advice to heart. Adalennys' story is so disheartening. She was happily married for a while. Her and her husband were very involved in their church. Her husband left her for another woman in the church who was related to the pastor. Adalennys begged the pastor to counsel them, but the pastor refused. Adalennys was left to raise 2 children alone. She is going to Keila and Yefri's church now but still is not ready to rededicate her life. I initially wasn't even going to share this story because it's not a "feel good" story. I had to share it, because we need our supporters to join us in praying for Adalennys, and her son, David. Adalennys guard is up very high. She's afraid. David had not made a commitment in the past, and he is hungry for the Word, so we are very hopeful in his regard. We are so grateful that she welcomes us each week into her home to study the Word.



Our last evangelistic outreach was in a very poor area called Maria Montez. We have several widows there and each time we drove into that neighborhood we were reminded that this particular area suffers from a deeper sense of poverty than other areas of our town. G&P networks with several churches around town but are particularly close to Pastor Ruperto. Most of the people in his church are middle class and struggle with ministering to the poor people around his church. Bill asked Pastor Ruperto if he would allow a group of his youth to accompany them when they went to share the Gospel in Maria Montez. He gathered a good group to go and after the first day, they said they loved it! That week there were 13 commitments/recommitments for the Lord. Basically we split into groups and go house to house and share the Word. The Dominicans love surprise visits and they will come and sit with us for hours to hear what we have to say. Bill and I have always been aware that the legalism in the churches there is bad. It cropped it's ugly head when we first started working in the Dominican Republic 22 years ago. Bill would wear shorts and he was told he wasn't a Christian because he wore shorts. I would wear pants and they would tell me I wasn't a Christian if I wore pants. For the sake of our widows, I did switch to

GRACE PEACE
MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP



Directors: William & Karen Rumble
Administrator: Linda Simmer
www.gracepeacemission.com
gracepeacemissn@aol.com
(330) 448-8234
2055 Pleasant Valley Road
Niles, Ohio 44446

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dresses. Their undivided attention was more important to me than my stance on their legalism. Bill would not stop wearing shorts and even went on a campaign preaching the scripture in Matthew 6:25, "Therefore, I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor yet for your body, what you shall put on. Is not the life more than meat and the body than raiment?" Slowly the churches began to change and men could wear shorts and woman could wear pants. But the legalism is rooted so deep. Still today, if you make any sort of mistake and sin, you can be put out of the churches. Are you kidding me? Churches everywhere would be empty. One of the main reasons we started Love United was to make a way for couples in the church to get legally married because they can hardly put one meal on their table let alone pay the exorbitant costs to get legally married. And their church will put them out if they find out they live together. About 80% of the population there is not married. Here are a few great stories from some that recommitted their lives or gave their heart for the first time. Meet Carolina Augusto. When she



was five years old, her mother could hardly care for her. There wasn't enough food. A neighbor who happened to be a Christian asked Carolina's mom if she could take her to live with her and her mom agreed. She lived with the neighbor for 7 months and they went to church 4 days a week. After 7 months, Carolina missed her mom so much, she went back home. Then around the age of 14,

she gave her heart to the Lord. When Carolina got pregnant by her boyfriend, her church kicked her out. She got very angry at the church for what they did to her. She really needed their help and guidance because life became even more complicated once the baby was born. Eventually she went back to the church, would make even the smallest mistake and they would treat her horrible. She went back many times and she would eventually mess up and they would kick her out over and over. This was her experience with the body of Christ. Imagine? Her upbringing was so hard. Her mom struggled to even feed them a little bit each day, so there wasn't much instruction. Carolina looked to the church for help and all she got was condemnation. So she gave up. She recommitted her life with our team and asked for prayer that she would stay strong in the Lord and for her husband to find a job. We plugged her into a church that is not legalistic and she said she is at peace now. She loves living for the Lord.

This is Danilo Perez Medina.



He went to live with his Christian grandparents when he was 12 years old. He said he always knew what they preached was true but his friends were a terrible influence on him, so he rejected the Lord over and over. During our outreach, he could hear Bill sharing the Gospel and his heart kept telling him to go and ask

for prayer. Finally he went over to Bill, prayed and recommitted his life to the Lord. Here is Bill and Keila praying for him.



He shared with us that at the age of 13, he gave his heart to the Lord, but he chose the wrong friends. He was doing drugs and getting into fights. Finally, he was falsely accused of murder and went on the run. During that time, he prayed for the Lord to help him change his life. Then he was falsely accused of drug running, basically picking up drugs from the coast and distributing them. He was not doing that, so he prayed to the Lord that the police would find the right suspects. He ran for 10 months. One day an elderly man told him, "The Lord is going to answer your prayer, Danilo. They will find the right people and drop the charges because God has a plan for your life." The police did find both suspects and Danilo returned home. The day we were in his neighborhood, he said his grandfather's words came back to him. "The Lord is good, Danilo. He can do so much for you." He said, "I had to recommit my life that day, and as soon as I prayed, I felt the weight of the world lifted off my shoulders." He has asked that we pray for his anger and jealousy issues because he wants to serve the Lord with all his heart.