

Grace and Peace Missionary Fellowship April, May and June 2018

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

It was a nagging feeling I just couldn't shake. Aura, a widow of Grace and Peace, kept coming to mind. I had no idea where the thought came from, but I kept thinking Aura is not really saved. I hadn't seen her for awhile but the last time I spent time with her, I asked her if she knew the Lord as her Savior. She said she accepted Him into her life the first year she came into the program, in 2001. When we met her, 17 years ago, she was stoic and quiet. Very quiet. As we developed a relationship with her through the Bible study she was assigned to, her demeanor never changed. Quiet. Stoic. Aura was a devout Catholic when she came into the program. I assure all of my Catholic widows they do not have to leave their church. They simply must attend the Bible study in their area and this is where they will get their food. Aura was no different. She was told the same thing. She attended the Bible study faithfully. Then we moved the program from a Bible study to a local church because we had developed a relationship with a Pastor who was willing to disciple the widows. Aura loved the church. She would tell us how she enjoyed going. Still, deep inside I had a feeling something wasn't quite right. I'd ask her questions. She would answer them correctly. I would walk away

shaking my head. Something was off. Fast forward to today, Bill and I were in America in May and she kept coming to my mind. I called Keila and said, "I need you to go get Dorcas (another widow) and go visit Aura. She's not saved, Keila." Keila said, "Okay, we will go." So Keila and Dorcas took a bus out to see her. Upon their arrival, there was another widow at Aura's house, Maria Magdalena. Keila introduced Aura and Maria to Dorcas and explained that she too was in the widow program. Dorcas wasted no time at all. She said, "I came here with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to talk to you about your salvation." She read the Bible and explained to them how only Jesus has the power to give us salvation. She told Aura, "Mary was the mother of Jesus but she doesn't have any power to save us." Dorcas continued, "I'm going to ask you, Aura, a very important question." Aura responded, "Sure, go ahead." Dorcas asked, "Are you a Christian, Aura?" Aura said nothing for awhile, then answered quietly, "No, I am not." Maria, our other widow, sitting beside Aura, stated on her interview with us several years back that she was a Christian and even listed the very same church and Pastor that disciplined our widows in that area. She apparently had been going there before we even met her. Dorcas turned to Maria, and



Dorcas Praying
for Aura



Maria, Dorcas
and Aura



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asked, "Maria, are you a Christian?" Maria answered, "No, I am not." Keila said she almost fell out of her chair. You know, over all the years of my walk with Christ, which is more than 40 years now, I'd heard what I considered a cliché, "Just because you sit in church doesn't mean you know Christ." I would say to myself, how in the world could you sit and listen to the Word of God week in and week out for years and NOT know Christ? When this took place with Aura and surprisingly even with Maria, that was a reminder. You CAN sit in church and hear the Word of God day in and day out and be hard hearted enough not to know Jesus. Wow! Dorcas had sensed that neither Aura nor Maria knew the Lord. Dorcas asked Aura if she would like to accept Jesus as her Lord and Savior and Aura said, "No." Dorcas pursued, "Why not, Aura?" Aura explained that at her age, there was no way she could keep up with all the activities the church has, so she was refusing Christ for that reason. Keila joined in with Dorcas and explained to Maria and Aura that going to every activity was not a requirement of being a Christian. Aura smiled and said, "Then I want to accept Him into my heart right now." Maria looked at Dorcas and said, "I would like to accept the Lord as my Savior, too." Dorcas proceeded to lead them both in the sinner's prayer. Dorcas and Keila spent the afternoon with them, teaching them how to pray and where to start reading their Bibles. What a victory for Him! I praise the Lord for the strong group of leaders He gave us to train and raise up. I praise the Lord for Dorcas and especially Keila. We are asking for specific prayer for July 10th. Keila has an appointment with the U.S. Embassy seeking her visa to come be our guest speaker at our

Annual Banquet in February of 19. In other news, during April, May and June, 45 more people accepted Christ through evangelism. In April, we hosted First Friends of Canton who conducted a Women's Health Clinic. Just this past week, First Friends of Canton brought down their youth group to paint widow houses and pour 3 cement patios at the homes of widows who were falling because the terrain around their small homes was so rough. They evangelized in the afternoons and 27 people accepted Christ. The children's program will be on vacation starting this week and the programs will resume in mid August. The Children's Programs being held during church service times will continue through the summer.

Another praise report concerns another widow, Luisa Maria. we met Luisa when Mary, Lee and Nick were small. She would sell us popcorn to make money to buy food for her children. We didn't know she was a widow for many years until she finally said, "You know, Karen, I am a widow." I was stunned. I never thought to ask because I thought she was much younger than 60 years of age. Then again, we started the program 18 years ago, so she probably was too young when we first met her. When we interviewed her, she didn't know her birthday, but had grandchildren old enough to put her age around 60. What a sweet woman. At the time she came into the program, her diabetic grandson, Luis, lived with her. He was such a joy. Sadly, though, his diabetes took his life at the young age of 12. Luisa took it very hard, as we all did. Luisa, herself, is a diabetic. Diabetic ulcers here are quite common. The Lord has been good to us through the years, bringing different people into our lives who have taught us so

much. One such blessing was a Cuban doctor we became fast friends with when the Haiti Earthquake hit on January 10, 2010. He taught us so much. The best thing he taught us was how to care for diabetic ulcers. To date, with this method, every ulcer except 1 has healed. A widow of ours had an ulcer for more than 10 years when she came into the program. It has not healed completely but has come a long way. Luisa cut her foot and developed a terrible ulcer. We sent our widow nurse there to tend to her ulcer and she is completely healed today. All praise to the Lord. Bill and I wish all of you a blessed Summer as we serve here in the Dominican Republic. As usual, we covet your prayers over the ministry and for our health.



Luisa's
Ulcer
Before

