

Newsletter 2020

January-June

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

The newspaper had a warning from the American Embassy in Santo Domingo to all Americans, "Get Out Now". I had to read it again. I assembled our staff on the 3rd floor of the mission house, told them what the article said and their response is a very real glimpse into our lives over the last 21 years. I asked "Do any of you know what is going on?" One staff member replied, "Last night our President came on TV and said he was closing the borders tomorrow at 6:00 a.m. You know our country. We didn't believe him." I said, "It's 10:00 a.m., and we have 20 hours to leave?" The reply was, "Yes, probably." I called Delta, miraculously booked a flight, we packed, roped off the kitchen on the first floor because it was disassembled ceiling to floor, jumped into our vehicle and headed to Santo Domingo, 4 hours out of the mountains. I called a few more times confirming we could actually leave because the borders were closing at 6:00 a.m., but our flight wasn't until 2:00 p.m. the next day. Delta said, "You won't actually know until you clear customs." Needless to say, we made it. As many of you experienced, we had to come up with a plan. Except our plan had to include a ministry in another country. We made a decision to do the right thing. We walked in

circles...for days...praying. Finally, we arranged for each leader to get enough food to feed their families for two months, provided for the widows, and quarantined Keila and her children at the house. Eliel, her son, was just diagnosed with Hepatitis. For the months of April and May, Keila stayed quarantined at the mission house. Then the Dominican Republic went into complete lockdown. Only hospitals and one pharmacy were open. Grocery stores were open too, but food was not being brought in. We decided to take the food to the widows two weeks in advance in case the supply ran out. Even though all of them were well stocked, we could not risk them going without. We hired four armed security guards, and delivered their food without incident for April, May and June. June 15th the Dominican began to open back up. Today, they are still under a curfew, the virus has spread but the death rate is very low, praise the Lord. Our phone here in American began to ring and email began to trickle in. "We are so sorry, we lost our jobs and cannot donate." Then someone we met 15 years ago sent in a special gift. Then another email, "I am so sorry, my husband lost his job and we cannot donate." Then an email, "The Lord laid it on our heart to donate extra this month." And our budget has been met every

What can all of us do except trust Him? And this is exactly what we are doing on a daily basis. Now on to a great amazing God story. This all started when Bill and I returned in February. One of our children contacted us and said, "I'm donating x amount of money, but I have a special request. Please find someone who goes without food and bless them with all of it." I met with Keila and told her what our next task was. She let the word out and we narrowed it down to a family that had two mentally challenged children that lived close to the mission house and a woman who we were told her husband left her with four young children. Except, we couldn't find her. We packed up all the food we bought, loaded it in the vehicle and headed to the house of the couple with the two mentally challenged children. I pulled up and felt the Lord say, "No, not here." I turned to Keila and said, "Keila, tomorrow, I want you to pack up enough food for 2 weeks and take it to this couple. This is not the family we are supposed to help." She looked at me dumbfounded and said, "Okay, let me take you to where the woman is supposed to be living and we'll try again." So, off we go. As some of you have experienced while visiting us, what they call roads are actually just paths only a 4-wheeler can handle. So, down one of these paths we headed. All the while I'm saying, "Keila, we just disconnected our

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4-wheel drive. Pray." We finally make it, get out of the car and this is what greets us.



Because there was a motorcycle, we knew someone was home. Long story short, we were met by a woman, her husband and their four children. We told them their neighbors said they were divorced and she was raising the children alone. We got a good chuckle out of the erroneous information and without knowing anything about them, shared our story about God's provision for their family. The wife, Lyli, was a strong Christian woman. Her husband, Ambioris, said he was not. He grew up an orphan, on the streets, having to rely on the people he begged from to eat. He was troubled. He said he provided for the family by using his motorcycle as a taxi. He told us the people he worked around were very abusive to him. He was very quiet and soft spoken. Life was hard. Only the Lord could have orchestrated this story and led us there.



After about an hour of getting to know him and weaving the Gospel into everything we shared, Keila asked him if he wanted to accept the Lord. I told him, "Ambioris, we tried to give this food to another family and the Lord said no." He looked up and said, "I know today is the day." So, we led him to the Lord.



This story just gets better. I asked them if Grace and Peace could help them get married. I assumed they lived together. They both smiled and said, "You already did!" In the Dominican, almost everyone has a nickname, so I thought their names were not their formal names. Grace and Peace paid for them to get legally married through our Love United Program in May of 2019. As many of you know, G&P is strong in humanitarian aide in the Dominican, but sharing the Gospel is our No. 1 goal. Every once in awhile, the Lord leads us in a very specific direction. As we continued to visit with Ambioris and Lyli and their children, I kept feeling the Lord nudge me to ask Ambioris if there was a business Bill and I could help him start. I was offering a microloan but in reality I wanted to give him whatever money needed to help jump start a small business for them. Lyli covered her face with her hand and told us someone came

to their house two days prior and told her to pray, that the Lord was sending someone to their house soon to help them get their dream of having a fruit stand started. I practically ran home to tell Bill what transpired. He met them a few days later and we formulated a plan. We would loan them \$200 and they would pay back \$5 a week until it was paid in full. Then COVID hit and we left. Ambioris and Lyli were the only people from the Dominican that didn't work with us who checked on us to make sure we were safe and healthy. As soon as the curfew was lifted we swung into action. We had the fruit stand built and painted. Ambioris placed it in front of one of the medical clinics in town. I checked with Keila today, because the stand opened for business yesterday. They made 1100 pesos their first day, which is about \$20. That's as much money as 3 people make in an entire day. What a blessing and



an amazing God story.

Since the DR reopened in mid-June, we've built three widow houses. While they were being built, Keila went and evangelized. Two people accepted the Lord. During this unprecedented time, how can any of us do anything but thank the Lord for His provision because it is always on time.