

Grace and Peace Missionary Fellowship January, February, March 2018

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

WIDOW PROGRAM

Elva Esperanza Feliz came into the widow program in October of 2017. Elva is a Catholic. Catholicism is the No. 1 religion in the Dominican Republic. Because so many of our widows are (were) practicing Catholics, we assure them that going to their church would never be a problem. Although, they are required to come to one of our Bible studies if they want to get their food. The dominant share, if not all, when they do make a commitment to the Lord decide to stop going to their Catholic church. That is between them and God. Elva loved the Bible study, but she didn't want to give her heart. That was fine. We knew that would eventually change. Fast forward to January of this year. As we discussed Elva and what we could do to encourage her in the Lord, we decided Keila and her mother would begin to visit Elva on a regular basis and minister to her. That's what Bill and I call "calling in the big guns". Then Keila got a call from the Bible study leader in Elva's area stating that Elva was in the hospital. She had fallen and broken her leg. Keila and her mother went straight to the hospital. Keila chatted with her, then her mom took over, asking her 3 questions. "Do you believe that Jesus can

heal you?" She answered, "Yes." Ofelia then asked, "Do you believe Jesus can save you?" She answered, "Yes." Finally Ofelia asked, "Do you want to receive him as your Lord and Savior?" Elva said, "Yes." Keila stated to us, "All the people praying in the United States for the widows and the leaders here in the Dominican Republic feeding them spiritually are all a part of this blessing. A new soul committed to Jesus. Prayers are a powerful tool, along with the Word of God being planted in her, growing in good dirt and now she is a child of God." We love the way the Dominicans explain things. Simple, straight and to the point.



EVANGELISM PROGRAM

This is from Keila, our in-country coordinator and her team of G&P leaders. The following is in her own words as we encourage her to become more fluent in her English. "We went to the prison today and had 3 salvations. I was talking to 3 young men, one whose name is David Bocio. He is the son of a pastor but walked away from the Lord. He was getting involved in so many bad things that he regretted it now. I told the 3 of them that even if they are in prison now, they can talk to God and come to God with a sincere heart because God doesn't reject anyone that comes to him with a humble and sincere heart. I told them we can talk to Jesus as we talk to a friend because he wants to be our best friend. So the young man that grew up in a christian family was open to talk and he was saying he has been inside the jail for only 3 months now and he knows Jesus loves him and wants to have a relationship with him so he can change and be a better person. I was telling them what a gentleman our Lord is. He doesn't push your door to enter. He first knocks on your door and if anyone opens the door, which is the heart, he will enter and be with them. But the enemy is the opposite of Jesus. He comes to steal, kill and destroy. I also told them that Philippians 4:13 says that,



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"I can do all things in Jesus that is my strength." The 3 young men were saying they and their Christian friends were talking about what we were telling them today. We told them, in God there is no coincidence. There are purposes in God. We asked if they wanted to let Jesus in their heart because he was knocking now and they all said they wanted to pray to Him for salvation. While the team was in the prison, we also talked to those who had previously made a commitment to the Lord. There was one man, his name was Boni Mariano. He was telling us how God has been protecting him over the years. He already has 9 years in prison, but he said he struggles in there with thoughts that the enemy tries to put in his mind. We told him how important it is to be with other Christians who have made the same decision to follow Jesus, so they can encourage each other and read their Bibles together every day. He told us he knows God is going to use him when he is out of prison to give his testimony to other people so they can come to Jesus too. Bill and I are so proud of our Dominican leaders and how they have taken ownership of spreading the Gospel as we have trained them to do. Grace and Peace, with our Dominican leaders, hosted a team of 22 from Ventura California in February. They were from California Coast Bible College and stayed for 2 weeks working very hard the entire time. They raised the money for several construction projects, helping families in our area with concrete floors, patios and a fence. During their time with us, they led 139 people to the Lord as they evangelized house to house. Thank you CCBC! Lots and lots of treasure being stored up in heaven! Thank you G&P supporters for your generosity in giving us the means to do what we do, also!

DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

Leadership Report: In their own words. "Our G&P discipleship classes are growing in the Lord. When CCBC from Ventura, California was here, we had the opportunity to take them over to where we have the bible study (Discipleship Classes) with the ladies. We had talked to Angi. Angi gave her heart to the Lord in June of last year when Canton First Friends sent a widow maintenance team down to help us. Angi had this anger in her heart about her husband's family for a long time...that she couldn't get it out. The only way she was going to be able to get all that root of anger out was receiving Jesus with an open and sincere heart. It was confusing, because Angi prayed the Lord's prayer with Karen and Canton FF men's team. From that day on, Angi came to the Bible study faithfully. We were thinking she was saved, and she may have been, but during her time in class, we had been planting that seed and praying for all of the Bible studies, for everyone, each and every member, because we know some of them struggle with different things in their lives. So Angi the first day we went to visit her with California Coast Bible College, she was explaining to the team how difficult the anger was that she had in her heart, and this was stopping her from truly opening her heart to Jesus. We prayed for her that day and left. The next day, we decided we were going back to keep talking with her. When we went back, her heart was softer and she decided to completely release everything so Jesus was able to help her with the root of anger she had in her heart. From that day until today, we can see Angi changing and wanting to learn more about the Lord."



Keila and Angi

****PRAISE REPORT****

Florida, a widow of ours for many years, was diagnosed with a abdominal tumor in 2015. We were told they did not know if it was benign or not, but they assumed it was. We took her back and forth to the Capitol (4-hour drive) for more than a year when she said, "I can't do this anymore. I'm too old. God will have to take care of this." Keila and I were praying for her situation as her stomach grew and grew and grew. Then in February of 2018, Florida's niece was told by a National Pastor that an American surgical team was coming. Her niece asked him if the surgical team would have room for Florida to be operated on and they did!!!! Many praises being lifted to our Lord for this answer to prayer.

