

Grace and Peace Missionary Fellowship April, May and June 2019

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

In keeping evangelism our main focus here, we have a lot of great news to share. The physical needs of the poor here are so desperate and drastic, there are times we have to step back and refocus on what is really the most important job Grace and Peace has here in the Dominican Republic. Yes, we can meet their physical needs that are temporal, and often times desperate, but sharing the Gospel, discipling and follow up must always take first place. We can get discouraged at times when we are discipling the people, because the group we generally start with will dwindle down little by little until no one is coming anymore. What the Lord specifically showed us over the last few months is that although we see that happen in our discipleship classes, He is still in control. The people attending those discipleship classes need to take ownership and step out in their new faith. They are doing just that. Two great examples of this are Erick Montilla and Luis Feliz pictured on the right.

Erick came from our neighborhood and grew up in the Children's Program. He told us that as a young boy, he became distracted and walked away from the Children's Program and the Lord. Several years later, which was last year, Keila and Bill were

discipling a large group of new Christians in the neighborhood and Erick came. After a short while, Erick rededicated his life to the Lord and is now a leader in the very Children's Program he grew up in. Also, his pastor said he is one of the most faithful members in the church.

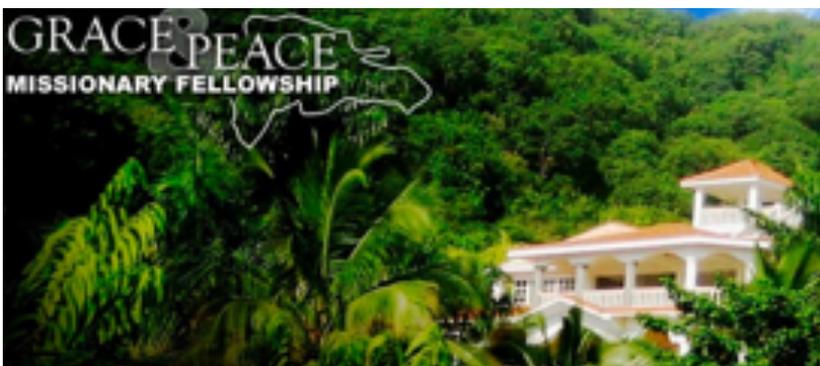
Next is Luis Feliz. In that same discipleship class, Luis Feliz was coming before he made a commitment to follow the Lord. Through the weekly class, he decided to surrender his life to the Lord and then became one of the leaders in the class. As the class got smaller, he would go around to the members no longer attending and encourage them to come or seek out a local church. Luis then moved to Santo Domingo to work, which is 4 hours from our town. We didn't hear from him for awhile, so obviously there was a concern that he may have turned his back on the Lord. Then one day, Keila received a message from him saying, "You cannot imagine how much the discipleship classes prepared me for what I'm doing now." Luis is working in a ministry to encourage those on drugs to leave their way of life and follow the Lord. Praise the Lord!



Erick Montilla



Luis Feliz



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As most of you know, although we take care of our widows with food, housing, medicine and whatever needs crop up, it's been a privilege to confirm that every one that has passed away knew the Lord.

Meet Ana Moleis. One of our new widows.



Ana is 79 years old. She has been a widow for more than 20 years. Ana never had any children, so when we met her, she was getting food from her neighbors. Ana is a Catholic. She is a practicing Catholic. Catholicism is the national religion of the Dominican Republic. When a new widow comes into the program, we plug her into a local Bible study or we will send one of our widows who's name is Claritza, to teach them. Ana doesn't like to leave her house because she doesn't walk well, so Claritza goes to see her once or twice a week and has a Bible study with her.

Ana is the first widow to outwardly show no interest in salvation.

In essence, her transparency is a good thing in that we know exactly where she is coming from. When Keila and Claritza go to visit her, it's actually quite comical. She will get up in the middle of their visit and walk outside leaving them alone in the house wondering what is going on. Then she walks back in and says she's very busy and doesn't really have time to discuss the Bible. This last visit was the most comical of all. It's very loud here. The way of transportation is motorcycles. A motorcycle stopped outside her house last week while Keila was visiting and Ana said, "Oh, you're ride is here. Do you need to go?" Keila said she couldn't contain her smile. She politely told her, "We drove here." Then Ana said she was too busy for a visit. If you understand the Latin American culture, you'll know how unusual her behavior is. The Dominicans are very social and hospitable when you go to their homes unannounced. They actually love it. Not Ana. She knows we are coming with the Gospel. We tell her she does not have to leave her church. We tell all of our Catholic widows that. Generally if they leave, they leave on their own terms, not because we made some sort of rule that took an important part of their daily lives away from them. We've told her that a few times. We've tried, to no avail to minister to her. She bucks it from every angle possible and can't wait for us to leave. Why are we sharing this? We are asking all of our prayer warriors

to join us in praying for her daily, that the Lord will take the blinders off and Ana can come to know Him.

Meet Carmen Medina. She is another new widow. Beside her on the right is her daughter, also named Carmen. When we went to visit her last week to take her a new bed, Carmen, the daughter was there. We asked her if she was a Christian and she said, "No, not yet." We ministered to her for a while, explaining that none of us have the promise of tomorrow and that today is the day for her to accept Christ. We asked her again, "Would you like to receive salvation?" She said, "Yes." To God be the Glory!



Save the Date

18th Annual
Vision Banquet
February 7, 2020
6:00 pm

Aulizio's Banquet Center
4395 Youngstown Road
Warren, Ohio

Come see what your
support helped
Grace and Peace
accomplished in 2019
Dinner is Complimentary