



The Living Choice

In The Dominican Republic, Caribbean

July / August 2006

When The Cloud *Doesn't* Move... What Then?

And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys: But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up. Exodus 34:36-37

I'd like to apologize to you all for taking so long to write since our last newsletter entitled, "Following the Cloud, Part II." Here, I explain the reason for the delay. We, as you have been seeing, have been trying to be sensitive to the impressions of the Lord and watch for His opening Providences in the forming of our ministry as well as deciding where it is the Lord would have us to establish ourselves permanently. We've met with some delays and challenges along the way but never disappointment. Relatively speaking things have moved very fast over the past two years and we became "accustomed" to the miraculous workings of God in moving us and providing for every necessity. "We decided" it would be no more than six months before we had our own location in the Dominican Republic.



With the work going well, several we had felt we couldn't do anymore because we have "our plan's" and we had been in our current location too long already to make prolonged commitments. However, we have been searching and praying for land to begin and hit several impediments. With the work that already in progress, we have had to take the time to look for property, a vehicle, as well as establish ourselves as citizens officially (Brian and I). Without a vehicle you are not always master of your own time. Moreover, studying with some of the youth here, we realized



Left: This is one of the five local "hang-outs" that play very loud music around us. Right: Five young ladies learning the present truth for our time two days a week.



that they in this community have many challenges and until someone receives the call to come and continue

this work, the Lord still needs us in this place. The youth are bombarded with very strong influences toward corruption from every angle. For example in our surrounding community there are at least four locations that sell alcohol and play raucous music at extremely high decibels at all hours of the day and night. There are some breaks but even on the ten acre farm where we stay and hold the clinic, the music sometimes enters, even occasionally on Sabbath evenings. There are no youth clubs,

shopping malls, or school sporting events to keep them occupied. There is only vice in their sight everyday.

We desperately wanted the next newsletter, "Following the Cloud Part III", to headline, "We Have Found the Place!" However, the Lord knows and has put a bookmark in our plans. And for this reason we waited this long. Pray for us and perhaps the NEXT newsletter can announce the blessed next step. Since we haven't found the right land yet we believe it is *He* delaying us.

We are thankful that it is in preparation for the Lord's ultimate goal for our family that He has delayed us. Right now we are developing and growing with five new adult Bible studies going on, five youth bible studies, the natural health clinic, and the weekly Sabbath School directed by Kathy.

Your Brother Elvin

Back to School



I was impressed to begin a children's Sabbath School. So far it has been a tremendous blessing not only to the neighborhood, but especially to me. On the first Sabbath I expected the ages of the children who would come to be between three and six years old. But to my amazement, the majority of those who came were between the ages of 6-14! Some of them were also some little ones. Moreover the older children are more faithful in coming every week, and seem to really enjoy learning. I thought that some of the songs I would teach would be a little too childish for the older ones but actually, they seem to enjoy them more than the other songs. For the first three months, we learned about

Creation, the fall of man, etcetera. I really wanted to make sure they learned their lessons well so I would ask tons of questions during and after each story. I have been so surprised at how much they actually retained from their lessons. They would remember things I hadn't even asked for. Also, each week they had a Bible verse to memorize that usually gave the moral object of

the story. So by twelve weeks, they had twelve verses memorized! Now; we have to understand that NONE of these children are Christians yet, so just

learning Bible verses is something very new to them. But they have very active minds and they did a wonderful job. Some of the little ones knew all of them. We learned some English words as well. I taught them that when they arrive,



Above Left: Kathy illustrating the Bible lesson to her eager students. Right: The young people happy and proud to be singing "Holy Day Jehovah's Rest" to their Parents. Below Left: Two happy parents look on as they see their children growing in spiritual knowledge and grace.

they should say "Happy Sabbath," in English. It was so cute hearing even the three and four year-olds saying "Happy Sabbath."



When we came to the seventh-day of Creation, I wasn't sure how they would receive the Sabbath truth, but we were memorizing the commandments as well during that time. We showed them that when we keep the Sabbath holy, we are

thanking God and giving Him the honor for loving us so much as to create this wonderful world for our enjoyment, and we are giving Him a day of our time to spend with Him. They really understood it and accepted it all as true.

Well finally, at the end of the “Thirteenth Sabbath” we had a special “High Day”. The children brought their parents and sang to them the songs they learned, and repeated all their memory verses and told their parents the story of Creation. The children were so enthusiastic; they came in their best clothes and were so happy that their parents were there with them. We had about fifty people attend, including the children. Afterwards, we had a nice vegetarian meal together. Over all, it was a very special day for them and us as well.



Around this time, however a big disappointment came. There were two sisters, Masiel and Estelita, who were thirteen and ten years old. They were among the most excited ones. Every week they knew their memory verses very well and they had started receiving Bible Studies. Well, their mother is an evangelical but, according to her; she really enjoyed how the girls were studying and learning memory verses and didn’t mind them coming every week. Actually she told us that she would help the girls fill out their Bible Study sheets. But, there were other evangelicals in the neighborhood, and when they found out that the girls’ mother was letting them come here, they started gossiping and bothering her and telling her that she had no control of her children. They said that we were messing up their minds, and that we were trying to make them like us, and overall, they made such a big deal, that they told the pastor of their church who promptly told the mother to never allow the girls to come back. Later they started a Sunday school. So the mother told the girls to not come back and the girls were so sad! They begged her to let them come, but the mother was scared of what the pastor might do. It was very sad for us too, because we miss them a lot in the class. Mommy and Daddy went to speak to the mother and she told them this story. Please pray that the Lord might touch the heart of the mother and she might let them come again. But thankfully, the other girls have persevered and are still excited about coming even though they feel bad for Masiel and Estelita.

Above Right: On Thirteenth Sabbath we had a full house. Below Left: These two fellows really enjoy coming to Sabbath School to learn about God and His commandments.

Right now we started a new quarter and it is about the “Life of Jesus”. We have about 18 children coming so far faithfully. Please pray that these classes may not be just another class for the children, but a step in their life where they can remember in the future the good and right way which leads to life eternal. *Kathy*



The Blessing of Jesenia



I am happy because my third cousin Jeseña is here with us. I know that it helps me and my family and also her. Especially for me because I have someone close to my age to play with and talk to. I have a companion to go to the Bible studies with me. My mom does Bible studies with some girls from Kathy’s Sabbath School class so I have to go. Sometimes I get a little nervous because there are only girls. But the Lord is blessing us. I also thank God because when my parents ask me to do work Jeseña is always willing to help me. I am happy Jeseña is here. **BRIAN**

The Right Arm of the Gospel

I received a phone call. It was Tulip. We, by the grace of God, had helped one of Tulips brothers named Jose, overcome a sever case of gastritis and debility soon after Daddy returned from the U.S. in July. She said, “Elizabeth I need to send my brother Nicolas to you. I want you to see his hand and arm. You will not believe what is happening to him.” I told her, “That is just the reason we are here and we’ll be waiting for him to come.” In the past, Tulip had been totally against anything that had to do with Seventh-day Adventists. She had not understood many changes that had taken place in one of her daughters who was Adventist. Not being a Christian, she became embittered and angry. Since we’ve been in this country she has spent some time with our family and the Lord has given us the opportunity to show her what Seventh-day Adventism is about.



When Nicolas arrived he explained what he believed happened to his hand. It was swollen about three times it’s normal size and he had dizziness and a some pain. He believed his affliction was the result of Voodoo. He



said that there was a Haitian lady who wanted to take his place at his job. He believed she had

Top Right: Nicolas’ swollen left hand the night he arrived. Just Above Right: You can even see swelling up to his elbow. Left” Elizabeth inserting a wicking clothe to help draw out the

practiced witchcraft on him so that he would no longer be able to work. The large family of Nicolas and Tulip believed also that his illness was the result of witchcraft and they asked “Is Elizabeth a spiritualist?” Tulip responded, “They use nature to cure.” So, immediately when he arrived in the evening we all had pray and began to work on his hand right away. We didn’t know the origin of it, but he had a very bad infection that reached up until his elbow. At first it appeared as if some poisonous insect had stung him. I opened a hole that allowed the pus and infection to escape and applied different types of poultices among other things. The next night that he was with us he called me from his room very worried. When he had lain down in bed he was bitten by a poisonous centipede that is rarely seen inside a house. We quickly put a charcoal poultice on the bite and had him drink some charcoal water. He didn’t swell at all and shortly after he didn’t feel any

pain. He believed that this too, was the result of the evil work the Haitian women was trying to do to him. The next day we spoke about God's love and His mercy towards us. His heart softened some. He was with us for two weeks. He participated in our worships, morning and evening and began to give thanks to God for slowly healing His hand.



Above left: The centipede that stung Nicolas on his foot when he lade down to sleep. He was convinced he was cursed when this happened. Below Left: He is all smiles while admiring his healed hand. Right: The healing of this hand led to the healing of his heart

Nicolas began to not look so much on what he thought the lady had done but on how much God cared for Him in that He sent Him to us to be healed. He truly was healed; spiritually as well as physically. Just a few days before he left, he shared with us that he would like to serve God and worship Him with all his heart. He also mentioned that he was giving up eating meat and ALL other harmful things in his life. His



family has shared with us that he indeed has carried through with all that he said he would and is faithfully attending all the services of a Seventh-day Adventist church in his area. I'm glad that through the right arm of the gospel, medical missionary work, God is softening the heart of people around us. *Elizabeth*

Thank you for your prayers

We need your PRAYERS, PRAYERS, PRAYERS. Secondly but importantly your *ongoing support*. Because our *ultimate goal is to start a "Blueprint" work and missionary training program we need to purchase a property in a retired place*. The Lord has guided us to establish this work here in the Dominican Republic. Besides sponsors we now *need* other missionary volunteers to sacrifice long or short term and aid in the development of this project. Write to us if you are interested in working for the Lord in the Caribbean mission field. Please share about the work going on through TLC, in The Dominican Republic with others.

Donations that need tax deductible receipts should be made out to Amicus SDA Church and mailed to our address with Dominican Mission in the memo.
T.L.C. Medical Ministries, (540) 948-6277 P.O. Box 36, Oak Park,
VA 22730 / missionfamily@gmail.com

