



The Living Choice

In The Dominican Republic, Caribbean

October / November 2007

For Who Hath Despised The Day of Small Things? For They Shall Rejoice!

Zechariah 4:10

Below right: Mommy sharing with one of many who are anxious to receive the truth if someone will come and share it with them.

We are only four people and our work now is a comparatively small work, but God has accomplished much thus far. At times however we have felt as if everything is taking too long to unfold. But we remember the years it took us just to get to this point and also, *“God leads his people on step by step.”* 1 Testimonies p.188. In the five months we have been in our mission station we have cleared several acres of dense brush, built the center, planted the majority of next years food supply, began the process of planting our commercial agricultural goods, began a Sabbath school program, have taken the sick into our home, started Bible studies with two local families, and spiritually speaking, have laid the foundation for an elementary school based on the principles of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. We have learned needed skills and put into practice much of what we have been acquiring over of the years. But it feels like something is missing.



In our last newsletter we told you of two young men who were to be working with us. Well, to be brief, one never made it because of the snares of Satan, and the other endured but a short time before being called on to another place. Now we say, “Father, where are your children, where are the MEN who are both able and willing to work for you here?” There have been some few people who have inquired into working with us and we are thankful for their interest but we are still praying for those who like ourselves received “the call.” In the following articles you read about the experience of Nelly Fuentes and two young ladies that accompanied her here for one week here. It was only one week but it had a very significant impact of the future of our work. Perhaps Nelly will come and help us advance the elementary school program. Please pray regarding that. But still, there is a definite void of able bodied MEN, yes, MEN who are willing to sacrifice, willing to pray and plan, willing to learn to teach, willing to push a shovel or preach, willing to pick up the Bible or place a bandage for the glory of the Lord and the help of man.

With just another family, consecrated physical, mentally and spiritually to the living and the giving of the three angel’s message through following inspired instructions, so much more could have been done already. However, we have made the commitment that whether God sends us more laborers or not we will go on doing our best to *step fast*. With our Father’s help, we take step by laborious step, building the old waste places, raising the foundations of many generations and restoring the paths to dwell in, delighting in the privilege given us to pioneer a simple work – a “small” work that will, by the grace of God, have eternal results because God said it would. We would like to encourage you all to earnestly in prayer seek out your place in the work of soul-saving. Please give consideration to the following words of inspiration found in Testimonies volume three chapter thirty three.

God proves His people in this world... Here, in this world, in these last days, persons will show what power affects their hearts and controls their actions. If it is the power of divine truth, it will lead to good works. The Christian life is a constant battle and a march. There is no rest from the warfare. It is by constant, unceasing effort that we maintain the victory over the temptations of Satan. As a people we are triumphing in the clearness and strength of the truth... But we are very much wanting in Bible humility, patience, faith, love, self-denial, watchfulness, and the spirit of sacrifice. We need to cultivate Bible holiness. It is not enough to merely profess to believe the truth. All the soldiers of the cross of Christ virtually obligate themselves to enter the crusade against the adversary of souls. -TLC

All Thy Children Shall Be Taught of the Lord

A couple of months ago, I felt a strong impression as if God was telling me to go to the Dominican Republic. Interestingly enough – though almost forgotten by me – I was also praying that God would make my teaching skills more effective for His service. My idea was more in the area of making disciples for Jesus through Bible study contacts and any other community outreach. I had no idea how soon He would answer, nor the manner in which it would occur.



I had contacted the Easton's about the possibility of coming to help with their ministry. To my surprise, they told me that *they* had been praying for God to send someone to help a group of parents who desperately needed guidance in the area of educating their children! They asked if I would be willing to do this and could I come as soon as possible. After much prayer and planning, my daughter, a friend of ours, and I made arrangements to accept this invitation.

Our arrival at the Easton's was not an uneventful occasion. We knew that the enemy was not at all happy of

the decision the parents of that community had made to give their children a Christian education. Satan was determined to derail the divine plans. But God prevailed.

Left: The people gathered around our humble home to know how they could play a part in God's plan for educating His workers.

We arranged for a four-day seminar on "True Christian Education." I was glad to see that most of the members of the community had come to our first meeting on Tuesday. Though poor, they were humble and neat in their dress. Most of them seemed timid at first, and had a look of expectancy in their eyes. Neither they nor I knew exactly what to expect or how the Lord was going to lead. They knew their needs. I knew of my limitations and for a moment, perhaps, I thought myself inadequate for this task. And yet, there was a great sense of responsibility resting upon my shoulders. As we started to sing our theme song, I felt the divine assurance that God was going to lead through it all.



The next day after breakfast, we headed up one of the mountain slopes to visit a family of four. Though steep and narrow the path leading to the house, we made it without any problems. It was a humble, small, wooden dwelling. And though it had a bare, dirt floor, it was kept clean and neat. Cheerfully we were greeted by the mother and her two children and were beckoned to come in. As we conversed, the lady informed us that after the meeting the night before, she had come home and shared with her husband all the things she learned. Since they were both seeking to do God's will in educating their children, they made the firm decision of pulling their children out of public school

immediately. Though they were not professionals, they were going to take the reins of their children's education! That sentiment was repeated in everyone who attended these meetings.

Sabbath was what I would call a "High Sabbath". With little exception, all of the community was there for service. The importance and responsibilities of parents in the home was the topic presented during the Sabbath school. Much discussion took place and still new changes were being selected for implementation in the homes of the people.

In the 11:00 Sabbath service, people were led by God to see Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, the true Teacher for all times. An appeal was made for a re-commitment of their purpose in life, promising not to allow the educational foundations set forth by God to be destroyed by Satan. The people held on to the precious promise, *"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children."* Isaiah 54:13. - *Nelly Fuentes*

I Was Slowly Forgetting Isaiah 58



Above: Angie (center), Judy (left), and Kathy minister in music to prepare the congregation to receive and apply the message given by Sister Fuentes.

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?" Isaiah 58:6, 7

These verses have become clearer and dearer to me this summer. Truly, Isaiah 58 shows the essence of genuine Christianity. Often times we are tested to see if we really mean what we say about helping the needy. When the opportunity comes, how often are we too concerned about taking precautions and end up not helping? And yet there are times when we plunge right into the opportunity and

somehow, our hearts are not in it. That big burden for souls suddenly vanishes.

I know, because it happened to me. At the beginning of the trip to the Dominican Republic there was a streak of selfishness in me. I wasn't eager in helping those who need and deserve it most. I was slowly forgetting Isaiah 58.

A few obstacles were set before us while we were on our way to the mountains. With almost getting killed twice, getting stuck in a ditch and having to walk an two hours at 2 in the morning, it probably would be enough for anyone to grumble and complain. But with God's help we learned to see the humorous side of things (not that almost getting killed was funny). And as the days went rapidly by, the people of the mountains became dear to my heart. After seeing their hunger for truth and their immediate action upon it, the fire for souls was rekindled in my heart and mind. I asked God to forgive me for being so selfish and not wanting entirely to go to the Dominican Republic.

God answered many prayers while there. We saw the hand of God move in an incredible way, though to some it may have been undetectable. I was amazed at the unselfish service of those who had much less than I do in every way. But they are sincere, loving, generous, eager to learn, and ready to do what the Lord commands. I pray that God will increase all these attributes in me no matter what or who I may loose. After being in there in the mountains, I want God to renew each day Isaiah 58 in me. - Angie Fuentes

What Other Great Things Would He Lead Us Through?

On the way to the outpost from the capital, driving in the late evening, we almost were part of a head on collision with a large delivery truck. God, in His mercy, kept us from that danger. We stopped to thank God for His protection and continued on. About a few miles from our destination, the rocky roads, having been softened by the rain, gave in and the truck we traveled in was left in a ditch with its tail end up in the air. The truck would have to stay until the morning! We then began our journey of a two hour, up hill walk in sandals in the middle of the night. As I walked, I did not bother with how long we were walking, or the mud puddles I kept stepping through, but thanking God for the beautiful stars that were out, wondering what other great things He would see us through throughout the week.



Right: Judy waits behind the loaded pick up truck, stuck in a trench on the side of the road at 1:00 a.m. while we all figure out how we'll reach the outpost from there.

Throughout the whole week, the people we visited, and who attended meetings were receptive to the truths being presented. Some began to put into practice what they were

learning immediately. God had already been convicting them of these truths before our arrival.

One evening, before the meetings began, it seemed as if it would rain. We prayed for it not to, for if it did, it would be difficult for the locals to reach where the meetings would be held. The Lord answered our prayers and sent a beautiful rainbow.

Needless to say, our health also improved being in the fresh mountain air, with plenty of exercise to get a good night's rest. Some thing I have learned from this experience is to be more thankful for what I have, to not take the luxuries back home for granted. These people, though "poor" according to some standards, are rich in my eyes for the attitude in which they live life. Thanking God for the smallest things, sharing the little they have with a cheerful heart, and being willing to allow God to work in their lives. I look back on our trip and see how God has and continues to work on my own heart. I believe I received more blessings than I have imparted, but I am happy the Lord was able to use me.

May God bless you as you seek to serve Him, remembering, you can serve God just where you are, but surely taking opportunities to serve elsewhere when they are presented. Always remember, "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them." - Judy Campos

The Mission: Bringing it Home

From every Christian home a holy light should shine forth. Love should be revealed in action. It should flow out in all home intercourse, showing itself in thoughtful kindness, in gentle, unselfish courtesy. There are homes where this principle is carried out – homes where God is worshiped, and truest love reigns. From these homes, morning and evening prayer ascends to God as sweet incense, and His mercies and blessings descend upon the suplicants like the morning dew. . . . All can see that there is an influence at work in the family that affects the children, and that the God of Abraham is with them. If the homes of professed Christians had a right religious mold, they would exert a mighty influence for good. They would indeed be the "light of the world."

He who lives Christianity in the home will be a bright and shining light everywhere.

A lamp, however small, if kept steadily burning, may be the means of lighting many other lamps. Our sphere of influence may seem narrow, . . . yet wonderful possibilities are ours through a faithful use of the opportunities of our own homes. If we will open our hearts and homes to the divine principles of life we shall become channels for currents of life-giving power.

From our homes will flow streams of healing, bringing life and beauty and fruitfulness where now are barrenness and dearth. The Faith I Live By p. 278



The Current Needs and Your Help

We are working towards a self sustaining medical/educational program. Your one-time and ongoing financial support is all thankfully received and used toward this goal. Write to us if you are interested in working for the Lord in the Caribbean mission field. If you have experience in working with young people, you love and wish to serve Jesus with all your heart, are willing to learn or already know how to speak Spanish, you may be called of the Lord to help us in our plans here. Please share with others about the work going on through TLC in The Dominican Republic.

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,
P.O. Box 36,
Oak Park, VA 22730
missionfamily@gmail.com



Left top: Dr. Don Litchfield works on someone coming for help during a three-day visit to our outpost. Right: The people, from hearts filled with gratitude, bring wonderful gifts from the fields. Below left: another angle of the stranded truck. Thank God all is well now.

