



Therefore we ought to support
such men that we may be fellow
workers with the truth.
III John 8

Partnership News

A BULLETIN OF
PARTNERS IN CHRIST
JUNE 2011

"ALL THIS COMES FROM THE LORD ALMIGHTY" by Ingrid Aquino

It's difficult to express how wonderfully blessed I've been in the last three weeks. This trip has meant much more than what words can tell. I think back to March 2nd when I left my country filled with good expectations and a little bit of fear. I mean fear for the weather I was going to face and the food I was going to eat. Not that the food wasn't good or anything like that but I knew it was just going to be different. I loved spending time with people I've met before and good friends of mine. I wish I could meet with all of them but because I was a "woman of high demand" I didn't have enough time to meet with everyone. Next time friends!!!



Ingrid at Mansfield Christian School

Certainly I have to recognize that God opened a box filled with much more gifts than what I expected to receive. He has poured out so much blessing that I haven't had room enough for it. The weather has given me a merciful treatment and the food has been "different" but I've liked it.

I'm so so thankful for the great opportunity God provided for me through the organization Partners in Christ to visit various Christian schools in the State of Ohio interact with their principles, teachers and students as well as having the chance to share about our school in Juan Tomas and other ministries there. I even got the chance to talk about cultural features of my country to the seniors of Worthington Christian School who were going to go to my country the second week of March.

I have to say that visiting the different Christian schools has been one of the most enriching experiences I've had in the area of teaching which will contribute to my professional improvement and development in a practical way. I thank very very much the elementary principles of Mansfield and Worthington Christian Schools for their willingness to share with me about their management



Ingrid at Berean Baptist Church

tionships with their staff. I really appreciate the teachers and students warm we in every school I went. Getting into the classrooms just opened a world of new and fresh ideas for me to implement and share with the staff in my school. Every school I went principles, teachers and students showed kindness and willingness to share their knowledge and strategies with me. That was really overwhelming. I enjoyed very much observing their bright colorful classrooms which gave each classroom variety and a desire to learn as well as their enthusiastic, creative and well prepared lessons of the day. Above all, I was amazed by the students discipline and politeness which mean a lot of the teachers good classroom management.

I bring back home sweet memories of the elementary children in Mansfield christian school as I shared with them in chapel and in their classrooms too. Their sparkling expressive eyes filled my heart of joy as I watched them. I will never forget that little 6 years old girl who came to me and said: "Oh, miss Ingrid you have really blessed my heart in chapel this morning" I laugh with tenderness whenever I think of her.

God showed us abundant favor as we shared in the different churches I was invited too. He blessed us with almost 30 more kids sponsored for the school. Now we're getting closer to our goal of having all children at the school sponsored. I do have to mention my gratitude and appreciation to all the different people who had me as a guest in their homes. I thank



Ingrid at Worthington Christian

everyone of them for their hospitality and warm welcome making me feel as if I were at home.

Now, I'm going back home with my suitcases and brain full with new items and projects, my feelings and emotions mixed and with many pleasant memories of this trip.

TO HIM BE THE GLORY!!!!

Connie Boyd, Partners Board Member Visits The Dominican Republic

Juan Tomas is a small, poor village in the Dominican Republic. It is reached by traveling along a dirt road filled with potholes. Some people in the nearest town, only a few miles away, don't even know where Juan Tomas is. But God has not forgotten the people here.

There is a school in Juan Tomas—Fountain of Life. It began several years ago by missionaries Paul and Linda McMillan. They had settled in Juan Tomas to start a church there. Over time and by God's leading, they began a goat farm. Their farm manager had children in 4th and 6th grades in the local public school, and the children were unable to write their names. So, the farm manager asked Linda if she would teach his children. And so began the means by which God has brought Christian hope and education to the entire community. I talked with many of the students at the school. Here is what they had to say.

Dario, by his own admission, was a troublemaker as a child. He attended AWANA at the church, and more than once Paul sent him home for misbehaving. But Dario liked being at the church and school. He was saved at the AWANA program, and decided he would change his behavior so that he could go to school at FOL. Dario says his life was changed so much coming here. FOL has been good for him because it taught him English so well. He even took private English lessons from Linda and was taught to be a translator. Secondly, Dario says the school gave him a Christian education. He had not come from a Christian home. FOL only offered classes through the 10th grade until four years ago. When Dario was ready to enter 11th grade, he asked Paul to expand the school through 12th grade. Paul told Dario to find another friend and he would add 11th and 12th grades. Dario found 14 other students for 11th grade! He graduated in the first graduating class from FOL in 2008. Dario is now finishing a fast-paced two-year computer technology degree from ITLA (American Institute of Technology). He plans to continue in a university to work on a B.S. Degree in computer software. Dario has the respect of other students—especially helpful with the "ornery" boys. He

is looked up to here and realizes his position in the ministry among the Dominican kids. He has been able to stay involved at FOL by living at home and traveling to university classes in Santo Domingo.

Shelly says the most important help the school gave her was spiritually. She would not have come to know Christ—her nor her family—if not for the school. Math at the school was also important because it has helped her in her university classes which she is taking now. Also, English classes were important, as well as the computer education, which she would not have received in a public school.

Nena went to FOL from 1st grade through 10th. She finished the last two years at another school because FOL did not have 11th and 12th grades at that time. She studied computers at the university and now teaches K-12 computer lab at FOL. Nena became a Christian while attending FOL. She loves her sponsor, Nancy, and her mentor, Anna, who Nena came to know at a summer English camp.

Ezekiel appreciates FOL because it took him and many others off the streets. The school also taught him English and the Bible. Ezekiel graduates this year and wants to be a chef. He just got his first job this summer as an assistant chef!

Lucy had attended public school in Juan Tomas until 7th grade, when she came to FOL. She had English class in the public school, but did not pay attention until she came to FOL. Discipline is better at FOL, and she became a more serious student. Lucy will graduate in October and is sad to leave the environment and friends here. But she is also excited as she plans for the future, perhaps to attend the police academy or work in an orphanage. Lucy became a Christian at FOL.

Ariel came to FOL in 7th grade. He wanted to come sooner, but his family couldn't afford it. He says, "I love it!" The teachers are different. They love you. Their teaching is different. Argenis was one of his teachers. They had discipleship class on Wednesdays and Fridays. Ariel was saved in one of those classes. He will be graduating in October and wants to study music education in university. Bible and computer education classes were most important to him at FOL.

Dhariana will be in 12th grade this year and has been a student at FOL since 6th grade. She became a Christian two years ago at a summer English camp. She says the teachers here care about you, whether you are learning or if you need help. She loves it here. She knew some basic English before coming to FOL, but now can speak conversational English.

Hansel will graduate in October and is president of his class. He has been coming to FOL since 7th grade. He had previously attended public school in Juan Tomas, then in the neighboring town of Villa Mella. He didn't like it. He loves FOL. He did not speak English until coming to FOL. Hansel became a Christian here at the church which Paul McMillan started.

Camile will be in 10th grade at FOL this year. She is not a Christian, but says maybe someday she will be a Christian.

Joel attended FOL in some of the early days of the school. He became a Christian at an English camp in 2002 or 2003. He is still involved in ministry at the school and farm, doing whatever is needed, and is very gracious in serving. Carl Key, founder of Partners in Christ, is like a grandfather to Joel. Joel considers it a privilege to be with Carl and confide in him.

Pedro Luis says he was a great troublemaker as a boy. But he became a Christian at AWANA club at the church, and the Lord changed him. He became a Christian at the very first English camp at FOL in 2002 when Anna Asp and a group from Berean came down and held the camp. He now goes to university and works as a body trainer for the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team, which has a facility just a few miles from Juan Tomas. Pedro Luis feels that he has been given much, and more importantly, he wants to give back, whether at church, or at work, or whatever he does.

Luis Fernando graduated last year from FOL. He speaks English well and now works for the police department in Santo Domingo.

I was surprised at the number of students I was able to converse with because their English was so good. Seeing how the school is changing the lives of these students for the better, I now wanted to speak with parents of some of the school children and see what they had to say. Only one parent was able to speak English, and that was because she was taking private lessons from Linda McMillan. But my new friend, Rose Mery, arranged visits with some of the families and went with me to interpret. I was blessed and encouraged by their responses.

One mother, Fifa, said FOL has helped her children and her family 100% by meeting spiritual and personal needs. She said FOL is like a shelter for the students and the community. She said, "We have many needs, but the school has met the most important needs." Fifa said many of the children in Juan Tomas grow up undisciplined, but the school has established a personal discipline in the students. Some of the public teachers care and are good teachers, but some just teach for the money. Some of the children go to public schools through 8th grade in Juan Tomas (which is as far as grades are offered), then go to high school at FOL because the cost to attend there is no more than the cost of transportation to a high school in another town.

Fausto's mother has eight children, and five are currently attending FOL. When we asked her how the school has helped them, she answered in Spanish, but I was able to understand "Mucho!" She said FOL school is worth the sacrifice. She has no complaints.

Amarita is the hard-working mother of Nena and Lucy, whom I had met earlier. She works on the McMillan's farm helping with the goats. For her, the cost of the school is not too much because they live so close and do not have to pay for transportation. She says the children here get a better education and have more opportunities.

Andrea is the English speaking mother of three children attending FOL. She appreciates the education that her children are getting at the school.

She is completing her high school education in the public adult education program and realizes the value of education and the opportunities that come with it.

It is not difficult to understand why so many of the students and mothers have such high praises for Fountain of Life school when you meet some of the teachers and staff.

Ingrid has spent most of her summer in the dorm at FOL as the interpreter for American groups and Dominican students who have come together for English camps, Vacation Bible School, and several work projects. She was a FOL student through 4th grade in the school's early years. She also attended that first English camp at FOL back in 2002, receiving Christ as her Savior at that time. Ingrid calls Anna Asp her spiritual mother. Ingrid values her opportunity to teach the children and to build a relationship with them. All teachers at FOL are Christian and teach with a biblical worldview. They take very seriously their curriculum choices, wanting the best for the children. FOL was recently accredited by the Dominican government. They were told it is one of the best schools in the country. Ingrid says only about 9% of students are Christian when they come to FOL. This year's graduating class is approximately 50% Christian. The teachers incorporate Christianity in all their classes. Their goal is to reach out to every student with the gospel. Not everyone receives Christ, but everyone has knowledge and is accountable. Seeds have been planted.

Roberto is the high school social studies teacher. He has a gentle, kind spirit and a ready smile. Roberto says Berean is famous here. He sometimes listens to Pastor Dave's cassette tape sermons which were sent to Paul McMillan in 1993. He likes Pastor Dave's tone and delivery. Roberto and his family share one half of a duplex which has been built for teacher housing. The second duplex is nearing completion. Cost for these houses has been provided by generous donations and is not taken from school sponsorships.

Richard is the school administrator, taking care of registration, school finances, and everyday operations of the school. He began as a substitute teacher in the school and because of his interest in business and finance, became the administrator. Richard also attended the English camps in 2002 and 2003. Drew Ray was his mentor. Richard shares preaching responsibilities at the church.

Argenis came to the school in 2001 as high school principal and math teacher. He felt God leading him here and left his position at a church in the neighboring town of Villa Mella. Argenis is a personal counselor for many of the students. Dario said Argenis was like a father to him. He could share with Argenis whatever was happening at home. Argenis also has discipleship classes two days a week, and leads a boys' Bible study on Friday. His wife, Rose Mery, studies with the girls. Argenis has started a basketball team which the boys enjoy. He also shares preaching responsibilities at the church. Argenis, his wife Rose Mery, and their daughter live in the other half of the completed duplex at the school.

The Dominican people were so easy to love. They are extremely kind and helpful to all of the Americans who visit their school. They have a sense

of humor—telling us we were eating “cat” at our first meal in the dining hall. They said, “It looks like chicken”, then assured us they were “pulling the leg”. We did enjoy goat at one dinner and had goat milk twice for breakfast. All of the food was very good, especially their blend of tropical fruit juices.

We had a rain shower for about 30 minutes every afternoon. Only one time was the rain very hard, driving about five feet back from the roof which I was standing under. Improvements are continuously being made at the property. Concrete sidewalks have been expanded by work groups to make more room for people passing, allowing them to stay out of the mud. The weather can only be described as extremely hot and humid. Temperatures were in the high 80’s everyday, which is comparable to our summers in Ohio, but the humidity was much worse. I was impressed by the work group from Ashland’s Southview Grace Brethren Church who worked five days in the heat and humidity to continue construction on the second duplex, along with other improvement projects. Other groups have been down this summer, and in years past, and contributed as well. Praise God for the hearts of these Americans who use the abilities and opportunities that God has given them to serve Him by serving at Fountain of Life school.

Some of us called on a family who had lost their 17 year old daughter unexpectedly the week before we went down. Rafaelina, who had been a student at the school, died of a heart attack. We were able to deliver a card sent by her sponsor from Berean and share our sorrow with the grieving mother, brother, and sister. The brother is a graduating senior this year and does not walk with the Lord. Please pray for him.

Rose Mery and I made several home visits. As we walked toward the village, we gave Silly Band bracelets to children we met. They liked the bracelets and would sometimes send other children out to get them also. One of my joys was to personally deliver a gift to a student named Robert from his Berean sponsor. The smile on his face was indescribable as he put his baseball glove on his hand, wore his new t-shirt, and posed with his family for a picture. His older brother was also very interested in that baseball glove.

A group from a church in Georgia was holding English camp for junior and senior high school students the week I was at FOL. On Thursday evening, I went with the group on a field trip to Tres Ojos (Three Eyes), three underground lakes in the Santo Domingo area. I walked with Alba Iris, who got very excited when she learned that I know her Ohio sponsor. After touring Tres Ojos, we all went to Pala Pizza. Dominican young people love pizza just as much as Americans! It was wonderful to watch them enjoy this special time of having pizza at a restaurant with their friends. I’m sure it was a rare occasion. The pizza palace was right across from the Caribbean Sea, and we walked over to the sea after dinner. The Georgia team even had a message and singing by the sea. It was a day to remember for all of us.

Speaking of unforgettable experiences, the traffic in the DR is unorganized, chaotic, and crazy in general! I went to the city (Santo Domingo) with Kathy McMillan _____ on Saturday. There were no stop signs or stop lights at some very busy

intersections. Cars just “nosed” their way through in the direction they wanted to go. The intersection would be full of cars. The drivers just inched along, cutting in front of each other. The same system was used for changing lanes in traffic—just cut in where you want to be and hope the other driver allows it. Surprisingly, I saw no accidents. Shopping with Kathy and her two children in Santo Domingo was fun. Travel to the city takes about an hour, so shopping is an all day affair. We went to a mall, a large warehouse outlet store, grocery store, and other places along the way. Kathy bartered with a parking lot worker for the price of our parking near the mall. I would have just handed him the amount he told me! Some of our shopping was to prepare for a surprise party given for Dario on Saturday evening, celebrating his completion of the computer program at ITLA. We got a special cake for the party and nearly everyone in the school and church community was there. Another memorable night!

A pleasant surprise was the Metro subway system going out from Santo Domingo to the village of Villa Mella. The Metro is only one year old. It is fast, clean, and very affordable, costing only 20 pesos (about 60 cents). Villa Mella is just a few miles from Juan Tomas, so getting on the subway there gives our FOL graduates a more affordable way to continue their education at universities in Santo Domingo. They live at home in Juan Tomas, attend church, and have a positive influence in the community and at the school, and attend university classes in Santo Domingo at the same time.

I noticed as I talked with students throughout the week that they would ask me if I knew their sponsors. They became excited if I did, wanting to know more about you and your families. Those of you who sponsor children are very personal to your child. They think of you and show love and gratitude for your help. You are making a difference in their lives. Many of them are growing in knowledge of the Lord and in their dedication to Him. No, God has not forgotten Juan Tomas.

Jennifer Pena, Logos Christian School Teacher Attends Grace College

This past year, God gave me the opportunity to leave home to pursue my studies in Art Education at Grace College and Seminary in Winona Lake, Indiana, for one semester. I left home in August to return in January. During that time, I stayed at the house of one of the professors of the university, and his wife. I took six classes; art classes all of them, and was kept pretty busy between classes, homework assignments, projects, church and a couple of social college activities.

It was a hard time at first, I will not deny it. I had left my home, family and friends, my secure environment, to come to a new and different culture, language and even weather! I had a hard time the first few weeks, becoming adapted to this new environment. With time, the Lord proved me that His plans and ways are always the best, and showed me His great love and mercy in ways that I had not experienced before. He provided me with warm and kind professors, new friends, a very good church and much more than what I had asked for.

Now, as I look back on that time and what this trip meant to me personally, I can say that it affected me spiritually, academically and professionally.

This experience affected me professionally, as I had the opportunity to be in a totally new learning environment where I was taught the plastic arts and the ways of teaching it parting from a biblical worldview. I had the chance to work with materials and resources that I had never worked before, and that opened my eyes and mind to new possibilities I had never thought of. I particularly enjoyed the Methods of Teaching Arts class, since it was directly related to my area of interest, and because even when it was a lot of work, I had the chance to see what I had been doing wrong in my class and what I had been doing right. At first I was a little frustrated, since all the scenarios that we studied in that class happened in schools in North America, where they have more resources and more opportunities than in the school where I work. So I wondered how I could apply all these things without the proper resources. With time, however, I learnt that what was more important for my students than supplying them with all the materials and techniques of art was to give them the strategies, desire and motivation to create with whatever they have at hand.

Also, and very important, this class gave me the tools and reasons to defend my class, since art classes are generally given less importance than other subjects like math or science. I myself wasn’t very clear as to what arguments I should give people to defend the teaching of art, but as I learnt this past semester and found out through research, there are more than sixty reasons why art is super important not to say indispensable, in the development and growth of children.

This experience also affected me spiritually, as the Lord taught me to trust in Him and His perfect plans, proving to me once more His steadfast love and faithfulness. I met Christian people that did things differently than what I was used to, believed different things and had different values, so I had to reconsider and confirm in my mind my own beliefs and ways of doing things, according to biblical teachings. I learnt to appreciate the differences between brothers and sisters in Christ around the world and see beyond their clothes, hair and possessions, to their heart full of love and passion for the Lord. Finally, I became aware of the great challenge I would have to face when I came back home to teach, to develop in my students a sense of beauty and awe of things, critical thinking, a passion for excellence and the ability to see God in and through art. And though this realization was a little overwhelming with the great responsibility and work it implies, I felt that I had given the first step recognizing the need for change, and that I now had the resources to start.

I really cannot describe everything that happened through this trip in my life, mind and heart, in this short report, but I will say with those who were victorious over the beast in Revelation 15:3: “Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations”.



Dayton Christian School Students Serve In The Dominican Republic

This past January I had the amazing opportunity to go back to the Dominican Republic for the second time! I also went last January, and had a wonderful time, so I really didn't think it could get any better, little did I know that God had the trip of a lifetime planned for me.

Since I did go last year, I was a lot more prepared this year, both in getting ready for the trip, and actually being down there. Even though I had an awesome time last year, I really wanted to get more spiritually from the trip this year. In order to do this, I thought it would be best to completely give God 100% control of the trip and let Him do whatever he wanted with me while I was there. That was the sole BEST decision I made before, during, or after the trip. Now that I look back, I couldn't even imagine going it alone and I'm so thankful God joined me every single day of that trip.

At the beginning of the trip it was actually pretty hard to remember to push myself, and what I wanted to the side, allowing God to come in everyday and use me. It was also slightly terrifying knowing that the decisions and choices weren't mine, but on the other hand, so completely comforting knowing that my God was controlling everything that happened to me, whether it was good or bad.

Despite it being difficult to not be in control, I could see God working in every little aspect of my trip. From who I was sitting by on the plane, to which host family I stayed with, even the conversations and friendships that took place during the trip. On some of the moments I would think about how *I wanted* my day to go, or who *I wanted* to talk to, God would always remind me that it's not about what I wanted. In every one of those moments I would change my mindset around, give my day to God and whatever He wanted, then I'd watch my day play out. As I watched, I remembered all the situations that I had wanted, and what I had thought was best and I quickly realized that NONE of them would have worked, and I would have been miserable. That's when I realized just how wrong I usually am, and how much wiser God always is.

Since I gave my trip to God, I found myself having unexplainable sources of energy during those hot afternoons running around with the kids, or there would just be an open opportunity, provided only by God to build relationships with some members of my team. I'm so thankful that I was willing to give my trip to God, it truly was the trip of a life time, and I've made memories I'll never forget, and have bonds with many people, that will never be broken.

~Kelli Smith

Nataniel, Hosanna, Cristian, Maria Carmen, Franklin, and Patricia...all names of the sweet orphans in the Dominican Republic. I had the opportunity to spend 12 days with a group of students ministering to these kids and so many more. These kids have been through so much and come from so many different backgrounds. They have had hard lives and already had so much heartache; yet, they smiled! It was such a blessing for my team and me to see the children everyday with giant smiles on their faces. Laughter and the talk of games was all I could hear every day spent at the orphanage, "El Arca". Seeing all of these kids with great big smiles on their faces really made me stop and evaluate my own life. How many times have you and I been upset when something didn't go our way? Nothing in these kids lives have gone the way they wanted, but they are filled with joy and happiness. In my own life, I have gotten very upset and disappointed when small things happened, like getting the grade I thought I deserved or not being able to go to the movies with my friends. When I think about the kids I met in the Dominican Republic, these problems seem so minor! The kids were and still are a great reminder that God should be the reason for our happiness and joy. The next time you are upset about something going on in your life, stop and think about the orphans. You need to handle adversity with a smile.

~CarlyConley



My name is Brianna VanNoy and I went to the Dominican Republic for a second time this year with our school's ministry team. With this being my second time, I didn't have many fears or apprehensions. I thought that I knew how everything would be, and I had no worries. Going into the trip, I asked God to do three things. I asked Him to show me something about Him, to show me something about myself, and to show me something about other people. At the time, I wasn't really sure what I was asking for, but God gave me exactly what I wanted.

Throughout the trip, there were several situations where God provided and showed Himself strong. Specifically, in both our dance team and skit team ministries to the kids. Oftentimes, our teams felt stressed and pressured to complete everything in a timely fashion, in order to effectively portray our message to the kids. During these stressful times, it was necessary for us to stop what we were doing, and acknowledge God, asking Him for the strength that we needed. After a time of prayer, God always provided us with the strength, motivation, and creativity, and He allowed our ministry to be well received. God showed me that He is ultimately the one in control. No



matter how much planning I do on my own, God's plan will always prevail and be better than mine. I was especially curious to see what God wanted to teach me about myself on the trip. He taught me to quiet my soul. Psalm 131 says, "My heart is not proud, O LORD, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. But I have stilled and quieted my soul..." God really showed me that sometimes the best lessons learned are by watching and observing. I had a few roles of leadership on the team this year, and sometimes if I became frustrated with a situation, it was easy for me to freak out or lose my cool. This verse came to my mind often, and I remembered that it would be better for me to "still and quiet my soul," and so I did. I learned about self-discipline and self-control, as well as self-worth. I was able to listen to God's voice and hear what He had to say to me, and our relationship grew dramatically in the days that I was there. Lastly, God opened my eyes and showed me numerous things about other people. He helped me to take time to understand their point of view and listen to their feelings. He showed me not to be so quick to judge others. God also taught me to be willing to give everyone a second chance. I was a person that wasn't eager about giving second chances to people, and I tended to judge people on their past, regardless of if they had changed or not. God really showed me that I need to love everyone, despite my own feelings toward them, and that my feelings should be pure and genuine. God gave me exactly what I wanted. He definitely answered my prayer requests, and showed me more than what I was expecting. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity that I had to go to the Dominican Republic.

~Brianna VanNoy



Delaware County Christian School Serves In The Dominican Republic

On the 4th of January, a team of 14 (9 students, 5 adults) from Delaware County Christian School ventured down to Centro Biblicio de Juan Tomas to share the love of Christ to the people down there.

While we were there we were primarily working on the faculty housing and using a lot of cement to build the houses and make them safer for the children. This included making sidewalks along the houses, cementing the entire roof of one house, fixing a gate, moving rubble, and putting up a volleyball net on the church's basketball court.



On the first Saturday we were down there for, we ran a huge field day for the children of Juan Tomas. We had probably around 200 kids there who were all happy and eager to play. It lasted for about an hour but it was awesome to see all the kids happy and playing.

One of the main highlights of the trip for everybody who went down was definitely the people in the Dominican. As a group we became close to a man named Argenis, his wife Rosemary and their daughter. Argenis is the high school principal and also a math teacher at Centro Biblicio. Not only was Argenis a great teacher but he was also a great guy as well. He worked with our group on the building of the houses and was a great help. We also worked with two recent graduates of the school, Ansel and Ariel. Ansel and Ariel had graduated last year from Centro Biblicio and were awesome guys who helped us with the building and also acted as our makeshift translators as well.

Another one of the main highlights was the food. One thing as a group we noticed was that they served their meals differently. Typically lunch was their biggest meal, while dinner was usually lighter usually consisted of bread or sometimes even pancakes.



One of the last few days, Linda McMillan, the full-time missionary down there, took us on a tour of their goat farm. The farm was very interesting and also very big in that they had around 200 goats. Also Linda shared with us how she and her husband Paul use the farm as a ministry opportunity with the people of Juan Tomas.

Overall the trip was an incredible experience for all who went down and it showed us just how awesome the God that we serve is.

~Parker O'Leary, Class of 2012



I think all of us were changed in some way by this trip to the Dominican Republic. Whether it was facing our fear of tarantulas or praising God for meeting our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, it was definitely an experience we will never forget.

We performed a lot of physical labor in the DR. We worked on the teachers' duplexes near the school; we spread cement, painted, made sidewalks, and spread more cement on the roofs. The DR is essentially made out of cement and a favorite saying was, "Without cement there would be no Dominican."

We also hosted a field day for the kids from the village. We had over 150 children and we played various relay games, like over-and under, and rolling over to the other side of the field. The log roll mostly resulted in the children rolling on top of each other! You could see the joy just emanating from the kids. The adults had a sense of that joy as well, and I've never met more friendly people.

I think we all learned flexibility from this trip, especially the boys with their bedbug epidemic. This trip was especially important for me, I think, because I learned that I can't always be in control, but God is, and He will always be with me. This trip caused me to come out of my comfortable "box" and rely on God in a way that I never had to before.

I am so thankful for the opportunity DC provided for us to serve in the DR!

~Caroline Price, Class of 2012

Visit our website at
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 to see developing news.
 Also join us on Facebook
 as we try to connect with
 past participants of
 mission trips.
www.facebook.com/picdr

New Security Wall

We are thankful for all of those that have worked on the new security wall. This was built along the road by the elementary basketball court. It provides much needed privacy and security for the school children at FOL. We need \$2000 to bring it to completion by plastering the blocks. If you would like to help, please use the enclosed card to send a gift and mark it "Finish Wall".

PARTNERS IN CHRIST
1672 Twp. Rd. 1043
Ashland, Ohio 44805

PRAYER & PRAISE

Prayer:

The summer work teams going to the D.R.
Senior English Camp conducted by Grace Presbyterian Church Worthington, OH
Junior English Camp conducted by the youth from Crooked Creek Baptist Church Nicholson, GA
Missionaries Paul and Linda McMillan
Dominican staff who will be working with the summer teams
National Convention of Christian Schools held at Logos Christian School
June 24 & 25

Praise:

For Ingrid's visit to the U.S. in March
All the sponsors who are sponsoring students at FOL
For the many volunteers from the U.S. and the D.R. helping in the ministry of Partners
For the planning and work done by the Partners board of directors.
For good work done by Doug Diehl the director of short term mission trips.

SHORT TERM MISSION TRIPS SUMMER 2011

Westminster Catawba Christian School Rock Hill, SC June 4 - 15
Proclamation Presbyterian Youth Bryn Mawr, PA June 20 - 30
Grace Presbyterian Church Worthington, OH July 8 - 18
Crooked Creek Baptist Church Youth Nicholson, GA July 16 - 26