



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  
DECEMBER 2011

## Graduation 2011

With much joy and satisfaction Fountain of Life Christian School celebrated their fourth graduation sending out 19 graduate students from 12<sup>th</sup> grade. We rejoice and thank God for His work among us and the fruit He has allowed us to observe in many of the students' lives.



From 8:00 to 3:30 a few teachers and students bustled around the high school building preparing for the guest to arrive and enjoy the longed for 2011 graduation. 3:45, parents and students who will graduate begin to arrive to take their pictures before the event starts. At 5:45 students, parents and many other guests assembled at the Center of Juan Tomas and began their traditional parade to the high school, which in itself is a great testimony in this small village. A band of four young boys played the drums with joyous rhythm that enhanced the celebration of these students moving on to the next phase of their lives.

At 6:30 the parade arrived at the entrance of the high school to begin the formal ceremony of graduation inside the auditorium.



Many hours of preparation had transformed the inside of the metal walled structured of the assembly hall into a beautiful warm convocation hall.

At 7:00 the ceremony started with an invocation by Master of Ceremonies Domingo Aibar's booming voice. Then an octet offered two beautiful songs of



praise and blessing to the Lord. Paul McMillan the director of Fountain of Life Christian School began an exhortation from the Word of God to the students encouraging them to look for direction. Carl Key executive director of Partners in Christ then delivered an exhortation to the students and to all those assembled, to continue in following Christ example of living, as they had been taught for the last few years in their education at FOL.

The students were then presented with their diplomas and special awards by people whom have been involved with FOL. A time of food, fiesta, and fellowship followed the ceremony of this momentous occasion in the graduates lives

## PARTNERS IN CHRIST ANNUAL BOARD PLANNING MEETING OCTOBER 1, 2011

The Partners' board met at Ashland Grace Brethren Church on Saturday October 1st from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The meeting began with a devotional led by Norm Johnson, missions' pastor of the church. He emphasized visionary leadership from a text in I Samuel 17. President Gary Kochheiser led the board in a time of prayer. Eric Key presented the treasurer's report and other financial matters. Carl Key, the executive director and Doug Diehl, director of mission trips gave reports on the past years' ministry. Connie Boyd, chairperson of the sponsorship committee, reported on the sponsorship program. She said that our Dominican coordinator, Rose Mery Travares was doing a good job. Connie stated that around 280 students out of the 350 enrolled at FOL are currently sponsored. This leaves about an additional 70 students to be sponsored. The major part of the meeting was led by Lester Flaquer and Paul McMillan, Dominican board members, who live in the D.R. and direct Partners' work there, along with a number of other Dominicans. They gave reports of the 2011 work and goals, which were completed. They also projected the work and goals for 2012.



The board approved the projected goals and adopted the following budget to fund these goals for 2012.

LOGOS building development \$10,000  
ACSI/CEL salary assistance 3,600  
Fountain of Life upgrade projects 20,000  
FOL teacher salary assistance 42,000  
Student supplies, uniforms, etc. 20,500  
Total 96,100

Please pray with us as we seek to develop these funds during 2012



## WESTMINSTER CATAWBA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

For our 2011 trip to the Dominican Republic, Westminster Catawba Christian School of Rock Hill, SC, sent twenty-nine people to work in the village of Juan Tomás from June 4-15. This was our fifth trip to Juan Tomás working at the Fountain of Life School, and we continue to enjoy the friendships and partnership that we have built over these five years. Even now, we are in the works planning our sixth trip to the area for June 2-13, 2012. Our 2011 trip signaled a passing of the baton so to speak for our school's leadership. For



the past three years, Emily Spatola led our, but this year with her move to Colorado, with her husband, the torch was passed to Billy Fisher and Jimmy Bagley. It was a smooth transition as Emily had laid a solid foundation for the trip and built a strong partnership between Westminster Catawba and Fountain of Life. Our good friend Jim Strickling joined us once again on this trip and helped us to prepare. Our trip this year included several newcomers who had never been to the DR and a couple who had never even flown before! We can happily report that all did well for their first international trip and flights! In fact, as always happens those newcomers quickly fell in love with the people and country of the Dominican Republic and are eager to get back to their friends in the DR. This year we worked alongside



Richard and Argenis more in the direction of our work projects. Our group carried on an array of projects during our 12-day trip. Although we were hampered on our first workday due to torrential rains thanks to a tropical depression, we were able to accomplish the projects that were set before us. In the States, we purchased and brought with us screen to rescreen the cafeteria. We had several crews that worked on painting the outsides of the buildings, the inside of one of the guys' cabins including the wooden bunks, the classrooms, the cafeteria and the front of the church. There were several construction projects in which students and chaperones worked to pour concrete sidewalks, and our big project was digging a trench for the security wall behind the high school which we began laying the first layers of block. In the



afternoons, our team conducted VBS camps for children of the village sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, playing games and making crafts with the many kids who came out. In the evenings, our team members were helping the Dominicans prepare for their English classes or hanging out and playing sports with them. Our final full day in the Dominican allowed us to go to the market in Santo Domingo and one of the resorts for some beach time. It allowed us a nice time of relaxation and fun with our Dominican friends. The toughest part of the trip was the saying of goodbyes and heading back to the States, but it just makes us look forward to our next trip in 2012! We cannot wait



### English Camp 2011

In mid July of this year, I had the opportunity to participate with a short term missions team that assisted missionaries Paul and Linda McMillan in Juan Tomás. Each year, the McMillans and other administrators of Fountain of Life Christian School organize a week-long English camp for young adults in the area. The team sent to assist them this year consisted of members from three congregations, all from the Ohio Presbytery of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

The students began making their way into camp on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. A large number of the campers had come in previous years, while others were coming for the first time and uncertain of what to expect. From the onset, they began making new friends and learning about each others' lives; moreover, they began learning about Christ. All of the students, both believers and non-believers, attended the worship services held on Sunday, where Pastor Stephen Dufresne of Providence OPC preached from Mark chapter 6. Pastor Dufresne continued to teach by leading the chapel lessons held daily during the week. The theme of the chapel lessons was 'being a student in the school of Christ.' He began with 'registration' in the school of Christ, which is free through faith, and our guarantee of graduation (perseverance of the saints). Throughout the week, he developed the implications and practical applications of these doctrines.

Outside of chapel, the students were continuously exposed to the teachings of Scripture. In the morning, daily devotions were held; in the classroom, Scriptural topics were often brought up; during the afternoon, there were times set aside for singing hymns and for discussing C.S. Lewis' allegory, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Additionally, the examples set by the professing Christians within the camp were an encouragement to one another, and a testimony of the transforming power of the Gospel to those who have not professed faith in Christ.



We may praise God for the evident spiritual growth and maturity within the lives of members of the local church. I ask that the readers would pray that God might continue to bless the McMillans' ministry in Juan Tomás, and that the non-believers who have come to this camp would come to a saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

James Stafford

### English Camp 2011

It has been two months since I arrived in the Dominican Republic for a ten day English camp missions trip. Reflecting back, I have many wonderful memories of the Dominican people, the school, the animals, the high humidity and the never ending bugs.

However, the memory which most resonates with me involves the images and sounds of the high energy Dominican teens that attended our camp.

I will never forget the looks on the girls' faces when I walked into the "Girls Cabin #1". I was their cabin leader, a stranger, a foreigner, someone who knew very little of their language- and I was to lead them. There was silence as soon as I arrived in the cabin, but after a few minutes the chatter and laughter continued. The ladies of Girls Cabin #1 welcomed me with smiles and introduced themselves. I quickly learned who knew English and could translate for me.

Just think for one cabin there were 13 girls, 2 showers, 2 toilets and one sink. I don't know how we did it but we managed to figure out a routine to make sure everyone got ready by 7:15 AM breakfast. We successfully maintained a daily schedule. We didn't want to lose points for being late! There were only a few girls that were lagging behind during the week but we did manage to get second place in the cabin competition.

Every morning the rooster woke me up- as well as several other Cabin #1 girls. The call was followed by cows mooing in the nearby farm. I didn't realize that the rooster's call was so important. Without him the whole camp gets off schedule. One morning I didn't hear him or maybe I was too tired to hear him but I remember breakfast being late and the camp lagged behind all day! I thought, did we eat him? We had delicious chicken



the night before! :-o But the next morning I was relieved to hear him and he was still calling.

I enjoyed the beautiful sights and sounds of the animals that lived near the camp and I was always excited to see the road between the school and the church. You never knew what you were going to see. I walked by herds of pigs, bulls, chickens, horses; and also on the road were many interesting people that walked through the village. The kids thought it was funny that I would take pictures of bulls and chickens. I explained to them that I don't get to enjoy this unless I visited a farm back home and you don't usually see chickens walk by your classroom when you are in class.



Mrs. McMillan gave us a wonderful tour of their goat farm and taught us the value of subsistence farming. I thought she was an amazing woman and very knowledgeable when it came to raising goats the Biblical way. If you ever visit the farm you will want to ask her about the ways of an impish goat and the lesson of the banana tree. By impish she means that the goats are really smart and if one figures out how to open the gate then he will let every one out.

Cabin devotions were a great time for bonding. Many of the girls were very strong in their Christian faith and it was nice to hear their testimonies and encouragement to others who may not know Jesus yet.

The week seemed to go by fast and I really enjoyed the English classes with the kids. They were a lot of fun to be around. We also had chapel every day and I really enjoyed worshiping with them in English and Spanish.



I did teach self-defense to the girls during the week. I was impressed with their eagerness to learn and how fast they developed their skills. The beginning of the week started with a very large class and it was hilarious to translate karate into Spanish. Class got smaller at the end of the week due to everyone preparing for Dominican Night and the talent show. The few that did show up at the end were my most dedicated students and I was able to show them some advanced techniques. I had one special student named Brian. Although not allowed to learn with the girls, the young Dominican boy that watched the class through the door happily showed me some karate moves after class.

There are so many wonderful stories to talk about and the memories and friendships will last a lifetime. At the beginning of camp there were 13

strangers in my cabin, but by the end of the camp and I told the girls during our last devotion- that I felt I now have 13 sisters and we were no longer strangers. They all agreed and we shared tears, hugs and laughter and said our goodbyes.

It is said, that if you decide to go to the Dominican Republic, you need to go at least twice. You go the first time to get over the initial shock of the humidity and bugs and the second time to look forward to the emotional reunion of friendships that were created previously. Lord willing, I look forward to returning to the Dominican Republic and reunite with my new sisters in Christ and the rest of the kids at the camp.

Angela Rothwell

## English Camp for Junior High 2011

### LOVE THE LORD THY GOD

The theme of this year's camp was "The Greatest Command", to love the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul & strength. The lessons were fleshed out with the Ten Commandments, and they learned two commands each day. The kids heard a clear gospel presentation at least twice daily, which was reinforced at morning and evening devotions. David Dzimianski preached the evening messages and some chapels, with John Dzimianski and Mason Evans also teaching in morning chapel.

This year we included character studies to go along with each day's verses. The character qualities that we taught included truthfulness, self-control, forgiveness, obedience & gratefulness -- attributes we all need, but that are particularly appropriate for this audience. The character qualities were tied in to the scripture verses with Biblical application. We were able to see these qualities lived out in the students, and gave "praise points" in an exciting competition to see which cabin and which campers could be models of Christ's character.

English classes were fun, with students competing in (English) Bible memory and enjoying English conversations with the leaders. We worked on "greetings" and "getting to know you" conversations, prepositions, descriptive words, and "to be". Craft projects included decorating Tote Bags and baseball caps, T-shirts and Frisbees. The tote bags were filled with notebooks, pencils, pens & Bibles.

One interesting note is that the kids seemed to LOVE the music -- and it is all from the Majesty Hymnal! Though they grew up with and are surrounded by the merengue and reggae (very loud African origin music), they thrived on the melodious style, and actually can hear the words they are singing. We repeated the songs over and over, so at home, they would be singing, "The greatest command of God is to love you Lord..." and "Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe". We taught them in English, but also in Spanish, so that they fully grasped the message. The songs each day were reinforcing all the other things that they were learning.

Another new thing we did this year was to implement PT (physical training) every morning before breakfast for the young men. That turned out to be a very positive thing, building respect for the leaders and for the boys themselves. We had competition for the guys in



the PT class, and the guys really enjoyed that. During that same time, the girls learned about modesty and femininity, beauty without enticement, with Lisa and Kristina as their leaders.

This trip took months of financial and teaching preparation, and I had some doubts due to the smaller team size this year. However, God is faithful to bless, and we were so filled with joy at His preparation of these young people for their time of service. I knew that Lisa and David would be prepared, but was so thrilled to see the active roles that John, Mason, Anna Beth, Daniel & Kristina took in stepping up to the plate. John & Mason especially stepped into a leadership role with these difficult young men, and we are so grateful. It is interesting to note that because of his experiences here, John feels called to the mission field, possibly in medical missions (he is pre-med in college). Mason is going into the military to be a chaplain, and David is training to be an evangelist.

Teaching on God's commands was well-received, and it seems for many to be a brand new idea, the first time they have ever heard these concepts! So many of these kids come from dysfunctional situations and it is hard for them to grasp the concept of honor and obedience to a parent who is either absent or ignorant. The abject poverty is a contributing factor, but the lack of God's Word in homes is what is so striking. There is a marked difference in the average villager and those that are faithful to the mission church, where they receive sound doctrine.

We are praying for God's will regarding next year. The financial burden is huge, and we need Him to work a miracle for this camp to continue. We are praying that God will give a special burden to others for this very special group of Juan Tomas kids.

Visit our website at  
[www.partnersNchrist.org](http://www.partnersNchrist.org)  
to see developing news.  
Also join us on Facebook  
as we try to connect with  
past participants of  
mission trips.  
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## **PRAYER AND PRAISE**

### **PRAYER**

The winter & spring work teams going to the D.R.  
Missionaries Paul & Linda McMillan  
Doug Diehl director of short term mission trips as he travels  
with the teams  
Partners' Dominican staff led by Lester Falquer & Paul McMillan  
Fountain of Life and Logos Christian schools

### **PRAISE**

The great leadership academy sponsored by ACSI/CEL Dominican Republic with guest speaker Phil Renicks  
For the many student sponsors, who provide for the children at Fountain of Life Christian school in Juan Tomas  
For the good time of fellowship and planning at the annual Partners board meeting  
For the many volunteers, who make Partners ministry a reality

## **SHORT-TERM TRIPS 2012**

Delaware County Christian School Newtown Square, PA January 3 - 13 Juan Tomas

Dayton Christian School Dayton, OH January 12 -24 Logos

Rob & Cristy Barlow GBC Ashland, OH January 28 - 30 Juan Tomas

Emmanuel Christian Academy Springfield, OH March 21 - 29 Juan Tomas

Freedom Academy Hudsonville, MI March 30 - April 9 Juan Tomas

Westminster Catawaba Christian School Rock Hill, SC June 2 - 13 Juan Tomas

Proclamation Presbyterian Church youth Bryn Mawr, PA June 18 - 26 Juan Tomas