



Hanley Family Update

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Spring 2008

Newest Interpreter

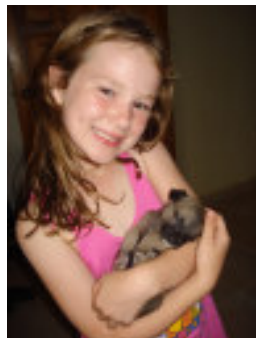
by John

Our ministry has been blessed with a new interpreter. The April Team was made up of people from churches in Indiana, Wisconsin, and Tennessee. During an outreach at one of our schools we had activities taking place in three and four locations at once. We had a group working on school id photos, heights, and weights; a group hanging posters in classrooms; people visiting their sponsor children; and a group going class by class singing Spanish songs and giving gifts to each of the students. Our ministry team was spread out in all directions and we did not have an interpreter to go with the group that was singing, but we figured that the teachers would figure out what was going on when the group got up and sang. What we didn't count on was Kate! She was going class to class with the group, and she went to each teacher to explain what was going on. I was in one of the classrooms working on another project when Kate walks up to the teacher and says, "Excuse me, we have a song we would like to sing!" in perfect Spanish! The teacher said "OK" got her class' attention and the group ministered to the

class. But, that wasn't going to be the only time Kate's Spanish skills would be put to use. The picture here shows her speaking with a couple interpreting for a few of the team members letting the Spanish-speaking couple know that the team members would like to see them at Church that night. I was close enough to hear the conversation, and was close to tears as she shared with the individuals and interpreted their response to the team with no timidity.



New Ministry Partner



We have a new ministry partner. Valentine, the Dominican dog has joined our ministry team. On, February 14th, I was running errands in town, and when I returned home I heard a dog yelping. I looked around the yard and found a 4-week old puppy in the back of my pickup truck. Evidently, at one of my three stops someone had tossed her in the back. She loves people and loves to be held and petted. She thinks she is a lap dog, but is rapidly outgrowing our laps!

Short-Term Teams

My main responsibility with New Missions here in the DR is to coordinate all the ministry activities of the short-term teams. One week out of every month (more often during the summer) we have a group come in to work alongside us. Before the group gets here I receive a report from our home office letting me know a little bit about the make-up of the team...names and ages of those coming, their occupations, and their "skills." Knowing these skills helps me to plan activities where their strengths

will be maximized. Often when a group comes down, the team is actually comprised of several smaller teams, coming from various church denominations from different states. It can be a bit tricky to meet everyone's expectations. For example, in March we had a group of high-school freshmen and sophomores on Spring Break along with 3 adult chaperones. At the same time we had an 84 year-old with her 22 year-old grandson, and a married couple in their late 60's. They came from NH, IL, WA, and FL.

by Melissa

Since the majority of the group wanted to focus on sports outreach, that's what we did. But I didn't want the adults to feel frustrated or ineffective, so while they were playing basketball in one village, I took the others to visit the pastors who live and minister there. In another village, we went home-by-home and handed out Bibles and prayed with the families as the kids played soccer. There were some bumps in the road, but all in all everyone had a good attitude as we shared in the work God had for us!



Some of the girls from church and their friends threw Kate a surprise 7th birthday party.

What a Week!!

What a refreshing blessing the April Team was! Many of the 23 who came had been before, so they came prepared. They had crafts, music (in Spanish), puppets, toys, and goodies, Ziploc bags filled with first-aid supplies, and others filled with hygiene items. They sent money in advance so we could purchase Bibles and non-perishable food to be distributed as well. We were able to distribute these in a neighborhood where the majority of

our church members live. I was thrilled to be able to bless these families who are so faithful. Even more, though, I was excited to extend our ministry, through this distribution, into two other neighborhoods. It was great to see new faces at church on Wednesday and Friday night, knowing they were there to be fed the word of God because we cared enough about them to reach out and help them feed their children!

"People don't care what you know until they know that you care."

Please pray with us as we work on raising up leaders in both our Spanish and English churches

You never know...

Back in February, three girls came to me at a church service asking me to help a little boy who is "so poor!" This really touched me, because by any of our standards, these girls are also "so poor!" They explained that he had just started coming to church. (Like many of our kids, he came without parents.) He needed clothes and he couldn't go to school because they had no money. I reminded them that he could go to our school at the big tent

for free. They said that he didn't have the money for school supplies. So, John and I purchased an outfit, a backpack, and some school supplies. We delivered them to his home and encouraged his mom to send him to the tent school. Later that week on they way to drop Kate off at school, a box of tiles flew off the back of our truck as we took a sharp turn onto the main road. It shattered and made a huge mess!

A man at a nearby business ran out with a broom and started cleaning it up. On our way back through we stopped to thank him with a little money. When we rolled down the window he came over and started thanking us for helping his family...It ends up that he is the dad of the little boy! He said he'd be at church that week. We all know how that goes, right?! Well, this week he was there...with a brand new Bible from the team!



Josh Mahlan, from our home church in Lakeland is living with us for about 3 months. It's been a huge blessing to have him here, working with the teams and helping out wherever we need him to.