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Kirk & Yvonne Jones

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A Final Word: Fourth IberoAmerican Missions Congress

Executives, national and US missionaries, pastors and leaders from the Assemblies of God in 22 countries came to Panama for four days of reports, challenges and the opportunity to respond to the Great Commission. The theme was "Celebrating the Advance - Challenged by the Future," seen here behind Rev. Gregorio Campos closing the event in prayer. He was one of Panama's first missionaries, to Ecuador, and now is a pastor, executive, and serves on the National Missions Committee.

About 250 people came from outside of Panama. One of our tasks was coordinating ground transportation from the airport to hotels. Close to 600 Panamanians attended, filling the main hall and overflow room of the Marriott. Our prayer is that God would inspire many of our lay Panamanians to fulfill a world missions call on their lives. May they live out the slogan adopted at a previous Missions Congress, that says,

Missions is done with...
 ...the feet of those who go
 ...the hands of those who give
 ...and the knees of those who pray.



The Jones Journal



Kirk, Yvonne, Chloe, Tony, Celina & Gracie
 AGWM Missionaries to the Children of Panamá

Vol. XXI ✦ Issue 1 ✦ June 2010

Ministry Report ~ by Kirk

Thanks to your support in prayer and finance we bring these reports and testimonies from the past few months.

KidsQuest Crusade Highlights

• (Jan.) in *Chilibre* at the church of *Pastora*



Dallis Quiñones, where she led the children in praises before the Crusade outreach.

• (Feb.) in *San Miguel de Exquisito* in the *Chiriquí* province. Katy, Brian, and Otoniel are waving with the prizes they won for bringing the most new visitors--47 between the three of them!



• (Mar.) in *San Juan de Dios*, near *Anton*. This is a very traditional religious community. In most every home he visited, coordinating Pastor Pedro Santamaria saw statues that the people venerate. That's why their strategy is not to argue about religion but rather to share Jesus. After the church held several outreach activities for the children, they are now asking when they can have their own services! There is a hunger that mere religion cannot fill.

Darien jungle. Prize winners are pictured with the team plus coordinator Manuel Miranda. Pastor Elias was one of my Bible school students. He reminded me that we went on a group missions trip together to the Guaymi Indians.



Children's Ministries Leaders Seminars

• (Jan.) Thanks to resources shared at the Year of the Child meeting, we provided a five-day VBS curriculum along with training materials, logistics and planning ideas. The people preferred materials on CD more than photocopies. Even if they don't have their own computer, there are Internet Cafes on ever other corner where for about \$0.50 an hour they can use a computer to review the materials, print them out, plus browse the Internet, and check e-mail.



• (Apr.) in *Cañitas de Chepo*, on the road before the

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- (Feb.) Manuel Miranda led this always popular seminar on making and using puppets stretched over a couple of months. That allowed them to finish the handmade puppets at home and bring them back to practice technique.



- (Mar.) Carolina Canto shared on how to plan to make Big Events a big success.
- (Apr.) Pastor Andrew Edmonds motivated us about the worldwide 1 for 50 movement—challenging, training and sending one children’s worker for every 50 children around the world.
- (May) I taught how to prepare effective lesson plans.

Annual Guaymí Family Retreat

We had 850-900 children each of six classes, so we estimate there were probably over 1000 kids total. Attendance for all ages was estimated at 4500. The largest group of new believers was baptized on Friday



--over 100! We invite you to see a 4 minute video montage of the retreat on the Media page of our website.

Look for my friend Gilberto which you may remember from the 2006 video report.

This ever-growing annual event highlights the results of effective collaboration among national leaders & churches, US pastors & churches, missions organizations, and career missionaries.

- *national leaders & churches:* Julio Valdés and the dedicated team from his church. Our teachers came from this church, plus another church in Chiriquí province.
- *US pastors & churches:* Roy Rhodes and his team from Crosspoint Church in Paola, KS brought their largest team to date with 17 people. They have come several years running. This week is the "highlight of their year"--their words, not mine!

- *missions organizations:* Convoy of Hope donated a container of food, clothes, shoes and toys as they have done each year. Mike King, Director of Pathfinders (Royal Ranger teams that do construction where there is no road!), along with Ron Harrison, came to see progress



on the schools that they have helped to build in the very remote areas of Duíma and Soloy.

- *career missionaries:* Terry & Julie Bell (coordinated many construction teams on LACC schools in Duíma & Soloy), Rod & Sherry Boyd (LACC Central American Coordinators), Larry & Dorothy Cederblom (started the LACC school in Duíma), and the Jones Family.

When we partner together with each other and the Lord of the Harvest we get to experience what the founders of our movement established in 1914. At the second General Council of the Assemblies of God in Stone Church in Chicago, they unanimously adopted this resolution, saying,

We commit ourselves and the Movement to Him—speaking of Jesus—for the greatest evangelization the world has ever seen.

Bible School Missions courses

The past two semesters at the Bible School I shared the teaching load with another professor for Cultural Anthropology and Postmodernism. Next semester I’ll be on my own with Missiology 3. Pray for this handful of missions-minded students, plus the hundreds who were touched at the Missions Congress (see *A Final Word*).

Family Report ~ by Yvonne

I have been joining a group of ladies from Panama International Church that visit an orphanage west of Panama City. The ladies started out going simply to hold babies who don’t get much human contact. The babies are in the cribs all day because they are under-staffed.

There is a little boy who has grown close to my heart. He just turned four years old. He is blind and most likely deaf. He enjoys holding the gate bar in one hand and banging it with the other, probably to feel the vibration. I took turns hitting it with him holding on.



When it’s time to leave there is always another child or two who wants to be held. It just rips your guts out.

Here we are following Easter Sunday services.

Chloe

Chloe finished her second year of Nursing at Evangel U. and Cox College of Nursing. It requires early morning training and late night

studying. She landed a summer job at the Boys & Girls Club across the street from the University. She will take five intensive classes during two summer sessions, and then come to Panamá to visit us for a few weeks before heading back in August.



Here you see him with his teammates at the awards ceremony: Carla, Chacho, and Gino. The trophy is proudly displayed in our living room.

Celina

She is going on a summer youth missions trip to Mancorá Perú. Part of the preparation includes weekly meetings with the team. A bigger part is raising funds. She wrote a great appeal letter explaining her desire to minister to the children and youth in Mancorá.

Gracie

She was sporting a bright blue cast on her wrist for a few weeks--she broke it falling at school in PE. It didn’t stop her from doing school stuff, playing piano (with a little difficulty) and producing a movie for school on the Greek myth of Theseus and the Minotaur. It starred Mom, Dad, Tony, Celina & our dog Rookie, as the horrible Minotaur monster that Tony “killed.”

Tony

The big news for Anthony these past few months was the Nissan Ocean-2-Ocean *Cayuco* Race that took place end of March. The *Carioca* crew placed second in the mixed youth category.

