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MISSIONARIES TO THE CHILDREN OF PANAMA

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THE JONES JOURNAL ✦ Vol. XXV ✦ Issue 1 ✦ August 2014

A Final Word ~ from Yvonne

This past term, I had the wonderful opportunity to minister in two different orphanages in Panama. It started when another missionary wife and I became aware of the need through a friend. When we first walked into the nursery, it was eerily quiet. The worker told us not to hold the babies because then they would become used to being held, and there simply were not enough workers to hold the babies. Therefore, they didn't cry, because it did no good. You can imagine our hearts were broken. We asked if we could bring a group of women in each day to hold the babies. We shared with them about the studies that have shown that if babies do not bond with someone within the first 9 months of their life, they may never be able to bond with anyone. After some time, we were permitted to bring groups of women in each day to hold the babies, pray over them, exercise their muscles, and look them in the eye

and tell them that we love them. They began to eat better, sleep better, and be more content.

During my time there, I always left feeling so sad for the kids having to grow up in this institution. Each child deserves a loving family to raise them. However, the laws in Panama for adoption were very strict. Therefore, most children were left to live their entire life in the orphanage. After years of prayer from the church, and hard work by a Christian lawyer, I'm thrilled to announce that Law 61 was passed this past year that allows adoptions to be processed in a timely manner and for foster care to start. This is a huge breakthrough and victory for orphaned children in Panama! The Lord has laid on my heart to give awareness to our churches and pastors of the opportunities that we have now to care for the orphans. I also want to help support families that feel called to foster care. Please help us walk through this open door.

The Jones Journal



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

Vol. XXV ✦ Issue 1 ✦ August 2014

Ministry Report

EU MIR Spring Semester



Kirk enjoyed serving as Missionary-in-Residence (MIR) at Evangel U. spring semester just as much as fall. Duties included teaching, advis-

ing World Changers Mission Fellowship (WCMF) club, and coordinating Missions Emphasis Week.

The *Intro. to Missions class* viewed the *Dying Out Loud* DVD in class with Stan S. (pictured) who graciously and courageously answered questions afterwards. It tells the missionary story of his family--parents Stan, Ann, sister Elle--and their dedica-



tion to follow God no matter what the cost, even losing their father to cancer. I believe their example will motivate a new wave of missionaries to reach the lost, especially among the Muslim world. Get the book/ DVD (influencerresources.com)!

Students commented afterward that it was hard to

watch the story unfold on the screen with Stan present knowing that he had lived through the grief and loss portrayed. Also, several commented it made them think deeply about counting the cost to become a missionary. All year our prayer has been that many students will choose to become lifelong goers and senders in God's mission. Results: out of the thirteen officers we both had the privilege of working with this year in WCMF, ten of them are doing a missions/ service trip this summer.

In March the WCMF leaders held an *alternate chapel* called "African Church: Joy Amidst Suffering." It was along the same lines of the Secret Church chapel held last semester that had a Middle-East-underground-church



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flavor. Student worshippers experienced rhythmic music style, demonstrative prayer, communion, preaching with stories of God's protection, and even a sample "donut" called *beignet* made by an EU student from Congo.

Attention focused on the Unreached People Groups (UPGs) that exist in Africa with a call to reach them. It was a powerful time of prayer both at the altar and in the seats. Many students lingered long on their knees. Several came and told our WCMF leaders that God reaffirmed His call to Africa that night!



One of the biggest tasks as MIR is coordinating **Missions Emphasis Week** with WCMF student leaders. Thanks to the investment of many quality people it was a success. This year's focus was Latin America and the Caribbean

(LAC). The AGWM Regional LAC office went above and beyond, especially providing for the Great Race Latin America Experience. It is a self-guided interactive tour where students learned about the needs and opportunities that exist for missions in the LAC region. The iconic Christ the Redeemer statue that you probably saw repeatedly during the recent World Cup in Brazil figured prominently on our Chapel stage surrounded by flags from the nations of the world.

All three morning chapel speakers touched the students' hearts for missions. Thursday morning the students gave a generous offering toward an historic open-air crusade in a closed island nation in our hemisphere. The Thursday evening open forum allowed for more personal interaction with student Q&A of our missionary panel members, plus a rich time spent in prayer at the altar. One snapshot: I got to connect a marketing

student with a missionary team's need for marketing even before leaving the Chapel where God spoke to her.

Ministerial License & Missionary Approval

Yvonne received her ministerial license from the Southern Missouri District of the Assemblies of God at their District Council celebrated in April. The district also recognized her as a district missionary. Kirk is still a SoCal district missionary. We trust that even more doors will open in Panamá for ministry opportunities—especially with what the Lord has laid on her heart for when we return (see *A Final Word*).

Panamá "News"

This year Panamá elected a *new* President of the Republic for the next five years, Juan Carlos Varela, who was the past Vice President.



Panamá's *new* first ever Metro opened in the heart of Panamá City. It is part subway, part elevated train.

The *new* Panamá Canal expanded locks are set to open early 2016.



Itineration Update

As you know, we have been planning to return to Panamá this summer, but our monthly and cash budgets have been lacking. So after meeting with our area directors it was decided that we will extend our time in the States in order to continue itineration ministry and return to Panamá January 2015. Since Yvonne is now a Southern Missouri District appointed missionary, we have offered to minister and raise support in this area, plus any other doors of opportunity that the Lord opens.

In successive e-Mailers we reported monthly support lacking \$1249, \$866, and \$770 (twice); now it's down

to \$650/month! Cash budget left to raise is \$8008. We've got six months to keep it going in the right direction.

Thank the Lord and you all! Please keep praying and consider a one-time or monthly contribution/increase.

Prayer

- Pray for wisdom and direction on ministry opportunities with orphanages and rescue ministry.

Praise

- Praise God for progress in fund-raising.

Upcoming

- AG Centennial 8/5-10/14, Springfield. We get to host the Panamá delegation of church planters, including Ivan Ríos, Jr., the boy preacher we met in the '90s. Just goes to show kids ministry produces fruit!

Family Report

This year we celebrated 30 years being married! We are so blessed by the Lord with the life He's allowed us to share, the ministry He's

called us to, the families He placed us in, and especially the four terrific kids He's given us.



We are especially grateful to have all six of us together again for the rest of summer! Chloe was "Chief Band-Aid" nurse for the MK summer program and also a nurse for James River Church Kids Camp. Tony finished a couple online summer classes (while squeezing in rooting for Latin American teams at the World Cup) before he begins his senior year at Evangel U. Celina returned following two summer class sessions at Pepperdine U., including a study/missions trip to Kenya. Gracie took Driver's Ed. summer school and behind-the-wheel instruction earning a "Great Driver!" comment from her instructor.

Panamanian Profile ~ Anthony Eladio Perez, Chepo

We have invited you to join us praying for *Eladio* and his kids ministry. He trained in our monthly seminars and we held a special event for kids at his church. During the week he teaches in a public preschool.

On facebook he announced an upcoming camping retreat. When I messaged him that we would be praying, he responded, "Amen! Glory to God!" After the hard work of a successful three-day open air evangelistic crusade, in order to relax he went to the park with his *hijos espirituales* (children in the faith). Now that's my kind of kids pastor!

