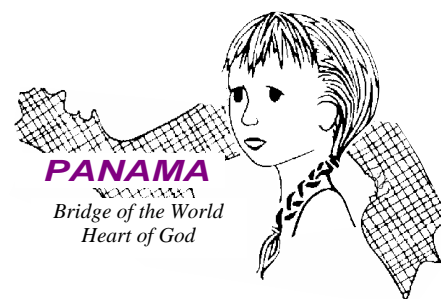


The Jones Journal



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

Vol. XVI * Issue 1 * May 2005

Ministry Report ~ by Kirk

Annual Session

Thanks for those who prayed for our Children's Ministry during Annual Session at the campground. Our team of leaders included many names you may remember: Manuel Miranda, Carolina Canto, Dallis Quiñones, Fanny de Quinzada and Rigoberto Mitchell. The children of our minister's enjoyed dynamic teaching, fun memory verses, puppets by our kids, high energy games (which you see Gracie enjoying here), fun sports, play and pool in the afternoon, and terrific videos at night.



One of my special memories was the final morning. I had just finished telling

the life application story with overhead transparencies. The children were sitting on the floor close to me. After the prayer time, several of the littlest ones came up first and gave me a big hug, then the rest followed.

Ordination Service Tour

One area of ministry that I have not mentioned much is serving as missionary representative on the executive board. That means going on the three day monthly minister's meeting tour in the

other two zones. There are general presbyter meetings every couple months, with additional executive meetings each month. Twice a year we'll teach, preach or minister at national conferences at the campground: Annual Session in January and Ministers Retreat in July.

Each year the Ordination Services follow the Annual Session. This year the Assemblies of God in Panama ordained 11 men and 4 women. Here you see me preaching in David, Chiriquí at the last of the three zone services. Panama's General Council has 1400 credentialed ministers and 700 churches.

Guaymí Family Retreat with Paola Kansas team

Pastor Roy Rhodes and nine team members from Paola Kansas ministered in *Templo La Felici-*

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dad, with Pastor Julio Valdés (see Panamanian Profile), did some site-seeing, and then spent the rest of the week at the



Guaymí Family Retreat. They helped set up, tear down, clean up, and break down the large Convoy

of Hope food donations into family-sized packets. In addition their church provided a complete minister's library of materials in a backpack for each pastor.

In the mornings we ministered to about 700 children, with help from Pastor Julio's teachers. Afternoons were for classes, then cooling off in the river. Evening services started with Bible videos for the kids (& the adults enjoyed). Total attendance was over 3000. Hundreds made decisions for Jesus. Hundreds were touched by the Holy Spirit each night at the altar services. About 75 were baptized in water the final day.



Also on the last day was the distribution of the tons of food donated by Convoy of Hope. That is one of the highlights of the retreat for these who have so little. But it's not the only reason they come. They all stayed for the afternoon baptismal and evening worship service following the distribution.



Box truck put to good use!

About one-third of that donation was delivered using the box truck we inherited last year. We also put the stage on the truck to use at a "mini" KidsQuest Crusade in the open air the day after the Kansas team left. Our Bengal tiger mascot "CJ" made a special salvation appeal after an animated video of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus. Al-

most every one of the 125 kids in the parking lot raised a hand to accept Jesus. As they left that night, each and every one received a handful of tracts to read

and to share with others.

I want to be sure and include right here our special thanks to Southern California's Missionettes and Director Betty Ludolph who are raising funds this year to make repairs and improvements on this ministry truck. Termites have damaged flooring and walls. Carpeting is peeling off. Paint is chipping

away. A bed sheet screen doesn't work in daylight at all! Mechanical repairs are needed. Plus we need a sound system and electric generator to use it in outlying areas. We appreciate your hard work, ladies and girls, to reach the children here in Panamá.

I feel I owe you an explanation for the delay in this newsletter: in March we had serious computer problems, and then a robbery in April, both of which slowed us down awhile. Now we're back on track. Thanks for your understanding.

PRAYER

- That our Speed-the-Light vehicles, Hyundai box truck & Caravan, be repair free from now on (like the Israelites' sandals not wearing out in the desert)!
- That God enables us to fulfill the *Vision-Mission & Goals* statement for 2005 (see online e-Mailer for 1/05). Our desire is to emphasize our Pentecostal distinctives, especially this month of May when we celebrate Pentecost Sunday.

PRAISE

- Thanks to organization by Rigoberto Mitchell, there's a new Children's Ministry committee of twelve people in Santiago. They will help coordinate activities in the central part of the country, like the upcoming events in Chitré.



- Our Rep. in Chiriquí, Edilma Villarreal, organized a new regional seminar in Bugaba with over 50 leaders and teachers in attendance. We expect another regional committee to emerge.
- We thank the Lord that no one was at home during the robbery, and that our kids are

handling it so well afterwards.

UPCOMING

- KidsQuest Crusade with a Teachers Seminar in Bocas del Toro Province 27-29 May. Please pray for this so-called "abandoned corner" of Panamá, that God will raise up leaders and children to reach many more children for Jesus!
- Teachers Seminar 11 June and KidsQuest Crusade 22-24 July in Chitré, on the Azuero Peninsula in southern Panamá.



sure the amp had a head-phone plug-in.

Celina

With a group of giggly girl classmates, Celina, seen here with a recent creation,



will represent her school in a "Battle of the Books." Each team reads the same list of 15 books, then meets for a competition based on the content. I inserted the "giggly" part after their practice at our house.

Family Report ~ by Yvonne

Chloe

Chloe organized and moderated the inter-school debate hosted at her high school.



She's also playing keyboard in the youth worship band. Here she is practicing at home.

Anthony

Anthony is learning guitar and played for the first time in chapel with the worship band. He did a great job! His instructor, Eyderman, is looking on from behind while playing bass. He just got his first electric guitar! We made

Panamanian Profile ~ Julio Valdés

I first met Julio over ten years ago when my car broke down on a ministry trip. He helped me out in a moment of great need. We have become good friends traveling together on executive tours and missions trips (like the Guaymí Family Retreat).

He serves as AG National Secretary, National Bible School Director, Pastor of La Felicidad, a strong, growing church (hosted a KidsQuest



Crusade last year). Plus, he has coordinated the Guaymí Family Retreat since the beginning, over 20 years ago.

Gracie

"Gracie" is synonymous with "motion." She is constantly moving--on your lap, in her chair, snuggling next to you. So the scooter and the park behind our house provide a perfect combination for her.



A Final Word

At the Lay Leaders and Deacons Retreat in April I preached from Habakkuk, emphasizing our joyful contentment in the Lord, no matter what comes in life and future ministry for these lay leaders. The closing verses apply to our lives these past couple months:

17 Though the fig tree shall not blossom, and fruit is not on the vines; the labor of the olive fails, and the fields yield no food. The flock is cut off from the fold, and no herd is in the stalls;

With Habakkuk's "permission" I'd like to insert: "...even with computer breakdowns or house break-ins..."

18 yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

19 Jehovah the Lord is my strength, and He will make my feet like hinds' feet, and He will make me to walk on my high places.

Habakkuk 3.17-19, Modern King James version

How you can reach us:

e-mail:kirk@jonesjournal.org
web site:www.jonesjournal.org

Panamá info:

Apartado 0818-00282 (* please note change *)
República de PANAMA
phone:.....+507 279-1048
FAX:+507 260-1048
Children's Ministries Office:+507 261-5537
mobile:+507 655-7989
US eFax.....801-697-7176
(note: from US, first dial 011)

Permanent US:

% AGWM, Acct # 2254795
1445 Boonville
Springfield, MO 65802-1894



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Kirk & Yvonne Jones

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Foothill Christian Center
242 W. Baseline
Glendora, CA 91740

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