

A Final Word

Here's a little back-to-school advice from Latin America's most famous author Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, known for writing Don Quixote: Man of La Mancha:

*From reading too much,
and sleeping too little,
his brain dried up on him
and he lost his judgment.*

[source: <http://en.thinkexist.com/quotes/>]

BACK TO SCHOOL



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Kirk & Yvonne Jones

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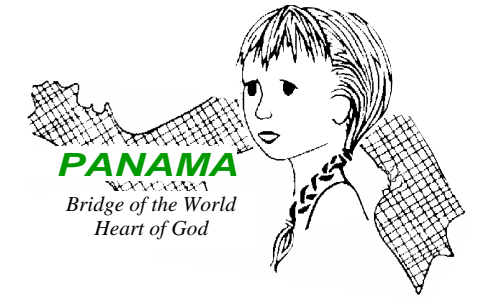
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The Jones
Journal



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

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Ministry Report ~
by Kirk

Visalia First AG Team in
Duíma (6/06)

We welcomed Pastor Randy Foster and 20-member team from Visalia First AG who built much needed bathrooms: for the boys and girls in the LACC school complex and two for the Pastor/Teachers house. These are the first ever flush toilets for the school. Since water is scarce in dry season, we first installed a reserve water tank. You see left-to-right Pastor Randy Foster, Pastor & Contractor Heriberto Pérez (on ladder), LACC school Director César Rivera, and Kirk.

Special thanks go out to SCDC Missionettes who's Dimes to Dollars project also raised money that was

invested in the septic tanks and pipes. Though hidden underground that is a very important part of the bathroom project!

The money quote of the week was when one of the guys looked up



from the project he was sweating over and said, "You couldn't pay me to work this hard!" We admire the dedication of people

who volunteer their time, money and expertise to work for the Lord on behalf of the children here in Panamá. Lord bless you for it! If you have a team--we've got a project! Call us.

Children's Ministry Leaders Seminars

This year we're trying to coordinate Crusades and Seminars in the same place to help promote both events and capitalize on the interest among Children's Ministries Leaders in each area. For distant locations we also save time and money by having the Seminar the same weekend as the Crusade.

Here's a list of recent topics covered:

- Using Games in Evangelism
- Ministering with children in family groups
- Christian children in our Public Schools
- Learning Styles: How children best learn
- Evangelizing Children without a Father Figure
- Clown makeup and ministry
- Illusions: earthly objects to teach heavenly lessons
- Organizing Large Evangelistic Events
- Preparing a Lesson Plan

KidsQuest Crusades

I'll highlight an aspect of the past KidsQuest Crusades and perhaps the Seminar. Feel free to read complete reports in each monthly e-Mailer on the Newsletter page of our website.

David (4/06)

Host Pastor Santiago Dixon, also zone Presbyterian, taught in the seminar and led an effective team bringing in a total attendance of 367 children.

I remembered as a kid how excited I was at a VBS where they gave away a 3-foot-long candy bar! It was a yardstick with a bunch of chocolate bars taped to it. So we did the same thing with foot-long rulers.

I should have remembered, however, I didn't grow up in the Tropical heat. The kids could have poked a hole in the wrapper and drank the chocolate bars. They still didn't complain. We'll store them in a frig next time.

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Changuinola, Bocas del Toro (5/06)

Changuinola, along with much of the Bocas del Toro province, has the feel of a boom-town gone bust--poverty, trash, unemployment, crime, compounded by periodic flooding. Only the Darién province could be considered poorer and more sparsely populated.



Nonetheless, for one weekend Bengal Tiger "CJ," along with clowns Ding and Ling, led these kids on a Quest for Truth and Love found only in Jesus Christ! Host Pastor Rafael Alvarez and his team did a great job inviting the community, resulting in a total attendance for the two crusades of 383 children with 153 new visitors.

I invite you to view the special online video report "Behind the Curtain" at www.jonesjournal.org > Media.

La Arena, Central Provinces (6/06)

We held the Seminar the Saturday before the Crusade. I was pleasantly surprised by the strong turnout of 45 leaders in this rural central zone, despite the torrential rain (evidenced by this umbrella parking lot). Our host Pastor Ricardo DeLeón and church volunteers did a great job rounding up over 300 brand new visitors for a total Crusade attendance of 516.



Metetí, Darién (7/06)

For the first time KidsQuest Crusades enter the eastern province of the Darién, which borders Colombia, to work with our national missionary Misael Concepción. A total of 234 children attended--most for all three Crusade services. The four prize winners alone brought in 78 new visitors!

We rejoiced to hear that many *Emberá* Indian children came with their teachers by bus from outlying villages, and some even rented out-board dugout boats to travel more than an hour each way over the ocean "highway" that connects many of these *Darién* villages.

In the 7/06 e-Mailer I made a last-minute request to find a replacement clown for "Ding."



Panamanian Profile

Meet our Presbyter from *Colón*, Reynaldo White. The first time I met him several years ago, I couldn't help but notice that he couldn't lift his right hand--always shaking hands with his left. He speaks with difficulty. Another thing I soon learned is that he is a strong leader who develops capable pastors.

I asked him about the injury that produced his paralysis.

He was 18 (he's now 62), a junior in high school, not a Christian, and in a gang called the "Plebés." Most ended up in jail, or the infamous *Coiba* island penal colony. A couple were murdered. Reynaldo was never arrested for anything.

One night around 11pm he was still in his school uniform, not wearing any gang clothes, when two policemen stopped to question what he was doing. It was the policy to "shoot first, ask questions later."

Without warning one policeman punched the left side of his head. Unable to react, the blow stunned him, but didn't knock him out.

He told his father the next day, who went down the street to the policeman's house to ask "why?" The policeman said he didn't know that it was his son, even though they have the same name.

Reynaldo felt increasing pain for about a month until the morning he woke up and couldn't talk or move his right side. His mom started to cry. He started to cry.

It turned out a fluid sack had damaged the nerves in his brain and left him partially paralyzed and unable to speak clearly, which he suffers to this day.

Rev. White has forgiven the policeman and doesn't hold a grudge at all, an attitude which liberates him to minister Christ's forgiveness to everyone he meets.

We finally did -- me! That's why the clown looks especially "funny."

Pueblo Nuevo, Panamá (7/06)

This church began as a neighborhood Bible class on a street just a couple blocks away. In that same spirit they attracted 25 brand new unchurched kids from the neighbor-



hood around the church. Host pastor Jorge Echezabal (shown praying at the altar call) told me that CE Director Manuel Miranda (our "CJ" tiger!) has already planned a Sunday School class especially for them.

It tickled me to hear from a teacher, in a very serious voice, that one of



the prize winners "behaves badly." That's exactly the kind of kid we want to reach!

Prayer

- For God to call more workers to reach the harvest of children all across Panamá. (Luke 10.2)
- For wisdom and effectiveness in preparing the Children's Ministry leaders that He has called. (2 Tim. 2.2)

Praise

- Travel safety! We don't take it for granted, especially after news that 15 church members died in an accident on the same road to Changuinola where we were just the week before.
- We received a donation to buy a cement mixer from a member on the Visalia team. Thanks so much, guys!

Get To Know Panamá

On the 4th of July I had a "Get to Know Panamá" moment. About an hour into the three hour drive to a minister's meeting all traffic stopped. I couldn't see anything, so I asked other driver/pedestrians why. "Protests" was the answer. To gain attention for their cause, groups sometimes shut down major thoroughfares. In this case the Interamerican highway was closed for at least an hour and a half. I was just about to turn around when traffic started inching forward, and I made it to the meeting "fashionably" late. But doesn't our Speed-the-Light Toyota 4Runner look great waiting in line?



Upcoming

- Thanksgiving week all the AG missionaries in Central America are coming to Panamá for our biannual retreat.
- KidsQuest Crusades: Puerto Armuelles (8/25-27), La Cabima (9/23), Atalaya (9/29-10/1), Samaria (10/27-29), Cañazas (11/18), Christmas Crusade (12/2) in San Miguelito gym--so rain won't matter!

Family Report ~ by Yvonne

Our family thoroughly enjoyed a few days vacation in *Pedasí* and the beautiful beaches near the southernmost tip of Panama. We got to enjoy this sugar-white sand beach on *Isla Iguana*. It's a small island about a half-hour boat ride off the coast with incredible snorkeling.



Chloe

Kirk took Chloe out to a fancy dinner to celebrate her 16th birthday along with one of her good friends and dad. The girls got flowers and afterwards everybody went to a movie. It was very special.

Anthony

Shortly afterward Anthony's school held a banquet with a Hollywood theme. All the kids got suits and formals. Chloe asked Anthony to ask her to go, since she attends a different high school. They had a great time. They even won movie tickets playing the Disney version

"Scene It" game.

Later I told Chloe, "You know, your first official date was with your dad. Your second was with your brother. They're all going to go downhill from there!" To which her dad says, "Amen! Amen!"

Celina

Celina is very motivated to start her own business. Well, she at least has her first customer. She sewed her own book bag for school and now one of her classmates has hired her to make another one.

Gracie

Gracie just started gymnastics class and absolutely loves it! She runs and jumps on the vault, does handstands on the balance beam, spins around the cross bar and is learning tumbling moves. After the first class, with her face all red and hair all sweaty she was all smiles ready to do it all over again.

Our kids went back to school the first week of August, earlier than US schools, but they get a full month free at Christmas--to play in the Panamá snow!?! Anthony was just getting bored enough to want to go back to school, to see his friends, that is.



Thank you for faithfully praying and giving. We deeply appreciate your sacrifice of love. May the Lord repay you!

