

Daily Report
July 2, 2010

Before I begin, I MUST thank my sweet husband and 2 other children who have once again allowed Lauren and I to have another AMAZING summer mission experience. Maddie and Harrison, your dad and I can't wait to share trips like this with you in the future!

After our first full day in the DR, my heart is also so full, I hardly know where to start. I want to begin by thanking God for the big and little ways he has provided for us. We had two great flights yesterday, everyone's luggage arrived and we cleared customs with virtually no trouble. We are more than comfortable in the Manna compound where we enjoy mosquito-free beds, refreshingly COOL showers, and plentiful, delicious food.

We are also blessed to be surrounded by people whose faith is being live out OUT LOUD through sacrifice and commitment. We see this in the missionaries and summer interns who tirelessly work to bless us not only physically but also spiritually. Thank you in advance for all you will do this week while we are here! We also see this in Luckson who has chosen a profession that will allow him to meet the physical needs of the people of his country, Haiti, someday. Just like our Great Physician, he will be able to meet their spiritual needs after he meets some of their physical needs. I am especially thankful for the humble examples of Jake and Shelly who, as you know, had barely recovered from their trip to Haiti when they boarded the plane for the DR. I can not wait to see the jewels in the crowns you will lay at Jesus feet someday. I also want to thank Phil and Jana for the ways they have planted in the hearts of our teens the desire to share Jesus in both word and deed. Their willingness and excitement is a testament to the legacy you will leave. I can't think of a more perfect highlight to such a successful youth ministry than this trip. You have impacted eternity and we will be forever grateful for you!

To our Clear Creek "kids", thank you for welcoming me in. You have made me feel young again! It is my privilege to serve alongside you, to sing with you and even sweat with you. This is just a little taste of heaven...well...maybe without the sweating part! ☺ I SO look forward to watching the mighty ways God will use you in His kingdom! I saw him using you today in so many ways! Your parents would be so proud! I will treasure as many of these memories in my heart so that I can share with your parents when we get back.

Other memories from today I will also treasure are of two particular children we met today at our VBS at the Outreach Center. The first was a 11 year old girl (this made me think of you, Maddie, and how much you LOVE babies) who brought her nine month old baby brother with her. She was so gentle and attentive to him. After the VBS we broke up into groups and visited the homes of some of the kids who had been at VBS. After stopping and visiting with an older lady on her front porch, we ended up in the home of some of the VBS kids. After visiting and playing with the kids and their mother, we closed with a prayer before we left. This is where my second special memory of a child was made. A boy who was probably nine or ten led the prayer. I was so touched as I listened to this young boy pray a precious prayer in which HE prayed for US! (Harrison, this made me think of you and the sweet prayers you pray before bed.) Specifically he prayed that God would guide us! What could be more perfect! How can I possibly feel fear or doubt when I know that a precious heart like his is bringing us before the Father! I am so blessed to be here! Thank you all back at Clear Creek and around the country for your prayers for us! They are working!

-Rebekah Van Eaton

Today was our first full day in the Dominican and it is already quickly becoming an incredible and indescribable experience. God's love and His joy are a constant presence among our team and in the Dominicans. Everywhere we go people smile and wave with a true sense of community. We began today by praying over the city of Rio San Juan. Looking out over the town was humbling and a reminder that God's children are everywhere and that His power is truly endless. We then had our first VBS which was crazy, hectic and amazing. As soon as the doors opened a little girl came running right up to me with a huge hug and barely left my side the rest of the day. We actually talked quite a bit even though half of the time one of us was just smiling and nodding and completely unaware of what the other was saying. It was a short time but her hugs and love were filled with such innocence and sincerity that I just wanted to spend the rest of the day talking with her and not understanding a single word she said. After VBS we split up and went to some of the people's homes. One of the houses we visited was full of happy and energetic kids – most of which were beating up Evan or hugging on Rachel. Watching their interaction made me so thankful that this is where God is leading them right now. Even with all of the children's hyper playfulness, they immediately sobered up when one of them began to lead a beautiful prayer. It is so obvious how much God is present and working in the Dominican and I cannot WAIT to see what else He does with us this week and with his people here in the future as His word is continued to be spread.

p.s....Hi family! =) I love you all so so much!

-Macy Marlin

Dear Clear Creek,

Today was our first day in the beautiful Dominican. I feel at home in these Mighty Joe Young Mountains, though these have a lot more palm trees than you would see in Chattanooga. Today we prayed over the city of Rio San Juan and had an awesome VBS for the children in the city. It was an amazing experience to see children so on fire for the Lord. It lifted my spirits, and for a moment I was envious of them. The people here have beautiful warm hearts. It touched my heart when a Dominican girl came up to me, embraced me and said "I love you" though she did not know me at all. This kind of intense love showed me what lacked in my own life. It said to me that I need to love more, and love everyone more though it sometimes may be difficult to do. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for me to see and influence on this trip. Hopefully I will reflect this light to the people here. Keep us in your prayers. We all love you. And someone please inform my madre that in the Dominican, I cannot text her. God bless, Olivia Davis.