

Clear Creek Family,

Are you poor because you have few possessions? Or are you poor because you have lots of possessions but little time for others? Are you rich if you have many possessions and few friends or few possessions and lots of friends?

What if you have a willing, engaging heart? What if you have many children and many friends? What if your home has little furniture but lots of laughter? What if you are too busy to entertain others? What if your days are spent with friends laughing, playing, and sharing life? Who is really rich?

Such is the state of life in the DR, living life surrounded by a true community. It's a difficult existence but filled with time for others. What a perfect Segway into sharing Jesus!

Whether the simple life of the farmer with horses, cattle, and chickens who pumps water at a well and hauls milk in 5 gallon jugs strapped to each side of his horse or the noisy life in the barrios full of comings and goings, dominoes, and children.

In a land dominated by mountains and children, the way of placing Jesus into a family's life is truly through the children. If the children love Jesus, the parents will follow. A child shall lead them.

You have heard of the two VBS's with beaming children and the beautiful interaction between our team and the youngsters that are open and hungry. You have heard of the eye opening visits to homes where poverty is plentiful but hearts are welcoming. You have heard of hard days of physical labor mixing concrete on a busy street filled with more scooters than Santa has elves. You have heard about the precious children in the orphanage and their unfortunate life situation but the incredible blessing of a loving caring staff. You have heard of the oppressive heat and humidity where we learned that Matt Dolberry does indeed perspire like a fountain free.

But have you heard of the billions of stars shining brilliantly against an inky black sky from horizon to horizon or the refreshing river swim we enjoyed with several Dominicans. I know you have heard of the incredible scenery comprised of a mix of palm trees, fields, and mountains but did you know about the Chattanooga connection? Evan Aldridge is one of the missionaries. He attended Soddy Daisy, grew up attending the Red Bank congregation, and interned two summers with Hixson. Chad and Nikki Mynatt also grew up at Red Bank. Chad is employed year round by Manna DR and Nikki is a summer intern.

Jana Carol dreamed of a mission trip that blended high school and college ages. She foresaw a trip where adults were the extras and the younger church of today carried out every aspect of the mission. You should have seen their work! From mixing concrete to playing with children to praying with those in the hospital to deep worship experiences to presenting lessons to fully conducting 2 VBS's. You should be extremely proud of this outstanding group of young people and feel confident that their leadership will make a difference in Clear Creek.

Thanks to her for her dream and to Jake and Shelly for their expertise in making this effort extremely smooth.

p.s. Caitlyn Wilson really wasn't peeking in the guys shower, I don't think, and Matt Dolberry really wasn't naked, he had on his headlamp.

Phil Cannon

Acts 17

What a week we have had here in the DR! Clear Creek members yet again have fervently scattered seed to be watered by the groups who follow and the Manna team! We all will continue to pray and wait patiently for God to make them grow into a harvest that is a testimony of His faithfulness that no one can deny! 1 Cor 3:5-9

Our team has worked tirelessly this week without complaining. I feel blessed to have shared this experience with these young people. Their parents should be proud of how they were Jesus to those they came in contact with. The world will be a better place because of them.

Thank you to the Manna team for showing us the ropes our first time here! They each have responsibilities that are done behind the scenes to make everything run so smoothly. All the interns have blessed me in some special way this week. Seeing Evan & Rachel and Chad be exactly where God wants them is a wonderful testimony to our group. Norm is wonderful spiritual leader and a pleasure to listen to. And as always we enjoyed working with Luckson again this week. I pray we have encouraged them all in some small way this week. May our Father bless them as He leads them to fulfill His purpose in this country.

As we finish this last day of hard work and fun sitting on the beach, I reflect on all the ways God has revealed himself to our group and worked through us. We have all been changed and have memories with the Dominicans that are too much to share in words or on paper, but we will carry them home and that will make us better servants there. May God bless all of you for partnering with us in this work.

Shelly Hendrix

The costa Ricans names here are Ronald and Rosie so you can call them by name...

Well it's our last official full day. Today I was wondering if Jesus mixed concrete or if that was just a miracle that he performed that we don't know about. Either way today we awoke to one of the interns singing the Lion King theme song. Then, of course, we got out of bed, dressed, and ran to the truck so we could get to our community work project, mixing concrete, and helping Rio San Juan see a little Jesus with an extra sparkle.

We then traveled to a hill overlooking Rio San Juan and we couldn't help but think about Jesus overlooking Jerusalem. We prayed in our groups. Jordan, our intern assigned to the awesome A-team, had us overlook the city as we prayed. During this experience you can't help but let your heart go out to all the children of the city and think about the brokenness. But as you looked and prayed with the gentle breeze you couldn't help but look at God's creation and know Jesus can heal this city and that God will do great things. Pray for God's hand and feet in Evan and Rachel, Norm, Chad, Porfie, Carlita, Ronald and Rosie and the rest of the Manna team as God uses them in mighty ways to bring the Dominican into a relationship with Him.

Shelly and I have been blessed to go on a lot of campaigns around the world and I want to tell you that all these young adults have been great examples of Jesus. Parents beware to be Proud. It is blessing to see them grow spiritually.

Chris – led a devotional, prayed at church and held a ladies hand at the hospital as he said the most tender prayer

Robin – Played with the kids, worked very hard, even in high fashion at times, and she thinks other mission trips will be for her in the future.

Lauren – always has a fun spirit and serves with a big smile and it was precious to see her hold a baby with deformities and love on her. She always shows her Christ-like attitude even when making her mark on her third continent

Caitlyn - has a wonderful spirit with the best laugh and always shared that with the kids. She did a great job at VBS helping the kids with crafts. She also has the ability to see things others when others don't.

Jennifer – helped with the kids but as I watched I saw she was a great friend in Jesus to her friends and a great encourager. She also likes to shower with cockroaches.

Macy- showed off her ministry nursing skills at the hospital and stills looks after the girls. Her gaming skills have slipped a bit though.

Matt – Has stepped up to be our worship leader in our devotionals, the hospital and VBS. I have enjoyed our intimate moments in the boy's dormitory.

Zack – continuously shows leadership skills that will benefit the Lord's Kingdom. He helps others live up to their potential. Zack is also very serious about soccer which he has made clear to the Dominicans with His no mercy 8 goals and 7 assists. I'm sure he will tell you about it.

Nathan – has a great compassionate heart which was evident to all and has the potential to do great ministry. Good thing he and Robin broke up for the week.

Josh McA.- was a great quiet servant minded leader with the kids. Even when others were not looking he brought smiles to their faces. Thank you for protecting our bunk bed from the spiders.

Kidron – Despite Kidron's pain from his back he performed in the skits and was the only male in his group. He may have a future on the US Men's soccer team as a goalie.

Josh Commers- the greatest guy everyone needs to know. It doesn't matter if you are on the back of a packed truck or walking the streets, he always brings a smile to your face. He also showed us sleep is possible anywhere and that puppets can be funny in Spanish.

Rachel- may have found her calling as a DR intern and we wait to see the future God has planned for her.

Emily – Another great Golden has fell in love with missions. She has survived her facebook withdrawals and we can't wait to see what she posts when we get home.

Olivia-did a great job writing the skit and working construction. This is her second trip and I'm sure as we talk to her and see her grow she will be back for more.

Rebekah – A big shout out to Rebekah for coming on this trip representing all the youth parents, showing us her mission's heart and using her Spanish to bless the Dominicans.

A special thank you to our co-workers Phil and Jana for their hearts and great work. We loved seeing you experience this with the kids. Thank you to Jana for being the "Bug Killer" in the girl's dorm and Phil for being our film crew.

Thank you to Manna Global for growing the kingdom in the Dominican and for allowing our young people to grow spiritually as we teamed with you. Thank you Clear Creek for sending us and being partners in changing the world. Thank you God for transforming us and allowing us to bless others.

Jake