

Dove Missions Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 1 (Summer 2008)



Impoverished Haitian Children sharing a treat donated by a Dove Missions volunteer.

Special Interest Articles:

- *Volunteers Welcome*
- *A Mother/Daughter Mission Experience*
- *St. Michael's Collaboration*
- *Archbishop Flynn's support*
- *A Letter from the Field*

Field Ministry Team: Liz and Sam McKie

Liz and Sam McKie have moved to the Dominican Republic to engage full time in field ministry to the poor, the homeless, the sick and the disenfranchised of Puerto Plata.

Their primary mission is to establish a permanent outreach center where they can work together with Dove Mission volunteers to provide street children with healthy meals, referrals to social services, English and Spanish tutoring, bible study, computer access,

basic first aid, and a safe haven where these homeless boys can relax, have fun and just be children for a while.

Our goal is to lease or purchase a facility big enough to house and disperse all of the supplies brought by our volunteers and shipped by our donors. We also plan on using this facility to provide a gathering space for our volunteers, as well as to provide a spacious and positive location to implement our outreach programs.

Dove Missions Board of Directors

With Liz and Sam taking on the full time job of field ministry in Puerto Plata they have resigned from their positions on the board of directors of Dove Missions.

With a sense of confidence they have turned over the strategic planning and management of Dove Missions to the competent and experienced hands and hearts of Dove Mission's expanded Board of Directors. The board members and their contact information are as follows:

Executive Director: Jerry Polaschek,
JerryPolaschek@embarqmail.com

Treasurer: Karen Polaschek,
JerryPolaschek@embarqmail.com

Secretary: Lisa Mastain, PhD,
CoachLisa@mchsi.com

Chief Financial Officer: Joe Kelly,
JKEL1985@aol.com

Development Committee Chair: Tony Wolf, Andrea@wolfconnection.com

"Human Hearts transformed with the fire of the Holy Spirit by building relationships and serving the poor."



Ongoing Ministries – Volunteers Welcome



Boy outside his home in one of the Haitian Batays that we work in.

Liz and Sam will continue to work with the organizations they have partnered with in the past in Puerto Plata to provide services to the sick, the elderly, the poor, the handicapped and the homeless in the barrios and Haitian Batays that surround the city.

We welcome volunteers who want to participate in any or all of Dove Mission's different ministries. We support dump ministries by bringing fresh water, food, and fellowship to those who live in the city dumps. We teach, sing, and play games at schools, orphanages, and nursing homes. We share our support, food, and most of all love to the homeless street children. We visit hospitals to lift up the infirmed in prayer and give them hope in Christ during their suffering. And we help educate not only the children, but the teachers.

If you are interested in volunteering, you have a number of different options in both time commitment and type of accommodations you prefer. If you would like to donate just a couple hours per week or per day while you are on a family vacation that would be wonderful. You can stay at one of the local resorts and we will gladly assist you in engaging in a service project that meets you and your families needs and desires.

You are also welcome to use Dove Mission's time share at Tropical Playa Dorada for \$50/day/person (up to 4 people). In addition to the local resorts, you can stay at Crossroads Retreat Center or the local Monastery for a more spiritual experience. You also have the option to stay at Sun Camp's more rustic hostel for less expensive accommodations.

A Mother/Daughter Mission Experience: Making a Difference

In December of this past year, my mom and I joined Liz McKie and Dove Missions on a mission trip to Puerto Plata. The experience was a deeply moving and transformative one for both of us. Every day we prayed together and felt protected, supported, guided and affirmed by spirit.

Throughout our visit, Mom and I were continually amazed and touched by the kindness of the Dominican people. Everyone we met greeted us with open arms, smiles, hugs and kisses. The people were so close to one another and welcomed us into their communities and homes with a warmth and openness that we rarely encounter here in the United States. We felt our hearts fill with the affection and appreciation of the people we met. Even when we brought them gifts, we always felt that we were the ones being nurtured.

We went to the hospital to visit the new moms and their babies and to distribute the gift bags we put together with hygiene items and baby clothes.

The hospital looked like it was from the 1800s. There were 16 rusty old beds in a room (and all of them were full of women who just gave birth or women about to give birth). There were old wooden cribs next to the beds, with paint peeling on them, holding the babies. There were no doctors anywhere – and I only saw one nurse in the admitting room. But in spite of the impoverished condition of the hospital the women were delighted to have visitors and sincerely appreciated our gifts. And like all new mothers they proudly showed off their babies and allowed us to hold and love them.



On two different days, we made lunch for the street boys. They loved the attention, the food and the gifts we brought. One of the most touching moments was when one of the boys stood up and said grace. He bowed his little head and clasped his hands tightly together and with great sincerity and humility he thanked God and each and everyone in the room for the food, gifts and the party. And then he asked God to bless and watch over all of us. His prayer and gratitude were so sincere and moving, he had us all in tears.

(continued on the next page...)

Mother/Daughter Mission Experience Continued...



After lunch, one little guy, in his eagerness to impress us did a flip and hurt his foot. I took my time cleaning and bandaging his wound. When I was done I looked up and saw that a bunch of the boys had been watching us, and they all beamed at me and thanked me for taking care of their friend. I think in a way, by lovingly nurturing and caring for this little boy all the boys watching felt nurtured.

But in the end, the truth is that it was Mom and I who were nurtured.

A Letter from the Field

Greetings! Sam and I have been in the Dominican Republic for 2 weeks now. What an adventure as we look for a place to live, and work on our mission center for street boys.

We are currently working on collaborating with the vocational school, Integracion Juvenil (Youth Integration). This organization helps to get these kids off of the streets and into school in the mornings and then teaches them a trade in the afternoon. Synchronistically, Integracion Juvenil is the place we did volunteer work on our first visit to Puerto Plata in 2002.

Integracion Juvenil has acquired an old Victorian style home that is in dire need of refurbishing. We are combining efforts to help in this renovation. Our current plan is that Dove Missions will facilitate our outreach from this building by teaching English, facilitating recreational activities and school sponsorship (uniforms and supplies). Our main office may also be located in this building. We are currently working with the board of Integracion Juvenil to create a collaboration plan.

The love we shared with these women and children was returned ten fold to us. If you feel called, I strongly encourage you to go on a mission trip with Dove Missions. You *will* make a difference, and you will return a different person.

Collaboration with St. Michael's Catholic Community

Sam and Liz Mckie, the current Dove Missions field team and founders of Dove Missions are parishioners of St. Michael Catholic Church. Several years ago, they introduced their fellow parishioners to the needs of the people in Puerto Plata. St. Michael wanted to become involved and they formed a sister parish committee to explore ways to learn to assist and grow in faith with the people of Puerto Plata.

If you or anyone you know have construction and/or renovation skills and would be interested in helping us, we have three months to complete the center, and would greatly appreciate your help. You can email us at: dovemissions@msn.com, or call Jerry Polaschek at 763-497-2116.

Another great opportunity has come our way through the assistance of the Bishop here in Puerto Plata. We have found a lovely, new 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom house near the barrio of Cristo Rey that we can rent and use as our home and our Missionary base. The house needs everything: appliances, beds, furniture, etc., so if you feel called to help us establish this home base please use the enclosed envelope to send us a donation.

Thank you so much for all of your support and love. We feel your presence here as together we do God's work. God bless you,

- Liz and Sam

Father Michael Becker, the Pastor of St. Michael, and Sam and Liz, who had gotten to know the Bishop in Puerto Plata, were able to help in identifying the need for a new church building for the people of Cristo Rey barrio, now our Sister Parish.

Sam and Liz, and Dove Missions, remain an important part of this effort as the mission center that they are establishing will provide a place for those who want a mission trip experience to stay and will provide an opportunity for people with a variety of service interests. Sam and Liz will also continue to help us identify the specific needs and will help us to maintain contact with the Bishop and other leaders in Puerto Plata who will be able to continue to help us identify the needs of our brothers and sisters of our Sister Parish and all of the people of Puerto Plata. – Ellen Schreder



These shoe shine boys face great peril working the streets for little pay often under the control of abusive adults. Most of these boys are homeless or live in the extremely impoverished barrios surrounding the city. They have no official papers and consequently are not enrolled in school.

Dove Missions

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* Dove Missions is a 501 c (3) nonprofit organization based on the principles of Jesus Christ. All donations are fully tax deductible.

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A Special Blessing from Archbishop Flynn

The week before they left for the Dominican Republic, Sam and Liz had a special meeting with Archbishop Flynn at his home. The Archbishop was touched and impressed by the vision, faith and loving hearts of Sam and Liz, and after praying with them he offered them his ongoing support. His blessing means a great deal to all of us at Dove Missions, and we are deeply grateful for the encouragement and faith he extends to Liz, Sam, the board and all of you (our partners in service) as we seek to share the love of Christ with the poor and the outcasts of Puerto Plata.

“God admires us not for what we do, but for how much love we put into what we do. Together let us build a chain of love around the world.”

Mother Teresa

Your Support is appreciated!

We want to thank you all for your past support and ongoing encouragement as we make this transition to having a full time field team working in Puerto Plata. We are so blessed by your prayers and donations. We feel God's presence in our mission work, and we are confident that together with your continued sponsorship we will do great things to heal, comfort, feed and uplift the desperately poor children and families living in the slums and streets of Puerto Plata.

We especially need your prayers and donations now as we seek to expand our mission to have a more lasting and long term positive impact on the people we serve. Will you continue your support by including us in your prayers, and by sending us a tax deductible donation? And if you haven't contributed before, will you consider joining us in this healing mission with your prayers and a financial gift?

Yes, I will be happy to support Dove Missions with a donation of \$_____

Yes, I will be happy to support Dove Missions with my prayers.

* Send Donations to **Dove Missions, 6976 Jason Ave NE, Monticello, MN 55362**

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