

# The Jones Journal



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

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## Ministry Report ~ by Kirk

We trust this newsletter will adequately express our thanks for your support in finance & prayer.

### Georgia AIM Choir



In early July Youth Pastor Kevin Lewis and Music Pastor Jason Moore brought an enthusiastic AIM choir from Georgia with 43 team members. They toured from Panamá City in the east to David City in the west, near the Costa Rican border.

They ministered in concerts at seven different churches, plus street ministry, chapels at LACC schools, and wrapped up a long week with a taped interview for

Hosanna church's Christian TV station. You can see pictures on our website in "Teams."

### PKs/MKs at Ministers Retreat

It began the day after the AIM team left. Our team of Manuel Miranda, Fanny de Quinzada and Carolina Canto (see Panamanian Profile) did a great job with the 40 pastor's and missionary's kids (PKs and MKs). In addition to VBS-style morning classes we even had Christian movies and popcorn at night. The kids were thrilled!

## KidsQuest Crusade - Santiago



Thanks for your prayers for the Crusade 27-29 August. Local coordination was provided by one of our original team members, Rigoberto Mitchell. It was his home church, *Catedral Cristiano*, with Pastor Bernardo Valdés. Here you see some of the precious children in "Search for the Truth" (first night's theme) as they meet with Jesus at the altar.

One aspect of the Crusades we haven't highlighted before are the games. You've seen the balls in the air, but did you know when they're seriously competing, they are also learning memory verses? Hopefully you can see the *Romanos 5:8* words the kids are holding up on stage after completing their part in the tower relay.

### In This Issue

#### MINISTRY REPORT:

<i>Georgia AIM Choir</i> .....	1
<i>PKs/MKs at Retreat</i> .....	1
<i>KidsQuest Crusade in Santiago</i> .....	1
<i>Children's Ministry Seminars</i> .....	2
<b>PRAYER~PRAISE~UPCOMING</b> .....	2
<i>Panamanian Profile</i> .....	2
<i>Get to Know Panamá</i> .....	3

#### FAMILY REPORT:

<i>Chloe, Anthony, Celina, Gracie</i> .....	3
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For the visitor campaign our rule is simple: only count children who normally do not attend church. This Crusade's winner, Dayan, brought 27. For both Crusade days, attendance was just under 350 kids (not counting adults) including almost 70 new visitors! Not bad for a church of about 200. Each child received a pack of tracts and also the first edition comic book (of six total) from the PowerMark Seeker Series. Thanks to Light-for-the-Lost, we gave the church a supply of the remaining five titles to continue the follow up.

### Children's Ministries Seminars



For August we held a workshop on making our own puppets, led by Manuel Miranda. In September he taught puppetry technique. The teachers got into

their crafts as if they were kids themselves, and created these puppet masterpieces. This fulfilled our "practical" requirement.

For "theoretical," we dealt with ministering to abused and mistreated children, led by Dalys de Herrera, a Christian social worker. Her Part I report on the high rates of abuse within the home, within step-families, and "occasional" fathers was depressing, yet moved us to fervent prayer. Part II covered the more hopeful theme of how we can minister God's love, grace and healing to such children.

### Prayer

- For Panamá's new government and president Martin Torrijos inaugurated 1 September. It appears he is open to the Gospel and supportive of the Church.
- As always, we appreciate your prayers for "Upcoming" events listed below.

### Praise

- The LACC school/ church compound in Duíma is more than halfway fenced in, thanks to Family Praise Fellowship, Riverside, CA.

### Upcoming

- Children's Ministries Seminars: October--Strengthening Relationships in the Family;

November--Vacation Bible School training & curriculum give-away.

- KidsQuest: Crusade 8-10 October in Bugaba, Chiriquí with our regional Rep. Edilma & Alfredo Villarreal, Pastor of *Centro Cristiano*; 4 December, Christmas Crusade, *Centro Misionero Cristiano*, with Pastor Ricardo Clarke (Carolina Canto's church).

Warning: Soccer can divide even the closest families! The US (ranked 10<sup>th</sup>) played here last month. Panamá (ranked 110<sup>th</sup>) was winning 1-0 with a minute to go in extra injury time, when the US scored the tying goal from a mud puddle just in front of the box. Everybody was disappointed, except for Kirk. He was the only one rooting for the US. All of us are

### Panamanian Profile

Meet Miss Carolina Canto, our Children's Ministries secretary, and expert KidsQuest Crusade organizer. Doing the behind-the-scenes work at the first Crusade she demonstrated a real knack. Plus she mastered the Gospel Illusions. Ever since she keeps us lined up with props, costumes, and actors for the rest of the Crusades we've done this past year. She also helps coordinate sales and distribution of ministry materials, as shown here.

In her local church she has served faithfully for years teaching and coordinating children's ministries.



hoping both Panamá & USA qualify for the FIFA World Cup Germany 2006.

**Family Report ~ by Yvonne**

Since Gracie's in first grade, all four of our kids are now going to school all day long. Celina is in fifth grade. She has Anthony's teacher from last year. Anthony is in sixth grade with a new, "really cool" teacher. Chloe is in ninth grade, which is "top dog" at the middle school.

**Chloe**

In early July Chloe had a terrific time serving as a translator for one of the Brio teams. Brio magazine is a Focus on the Family publication for teen



girls. They do a missions trip once a year organized by Big World



**Celina**

Along with Chloe, Celina got to talk with Rebecca St. James after her concert during the Brio trip. Celina now wears glasses, and she loves them. Says they make her

look like a professor.

She's taken a few art classes after school. Plus she's added a sewing machine to her art repertoire, most recently making her own decorative purse.

Ventures. Almost 900 young people and adult leaders came to Panamá. We had made contact earlier and arranged for ministry in our LACC schools close to Panamá City, and helped get translators.

**Anthony**

Anthony "plays" with our fat cat Kiwi making her do the "belly wiggle" dance, also for his weight-lifting routine, using her as



**Gracie**

Gracie, and her buddy Sammy, are seen here at her 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday-- Spiderman theme, same as last year. She is now sport-

the dumb-bell.

He also plays guitar now, taking lessons after school. He played a worship song for his class. Now his teacher has dubbed him their new "worship leader!"

ing a big gap in her smile-- missing her two front teeth!

Sammy keeps bug-ging his mom to check if his teeth are loose, like Gracie. We're hoping the gap will last until Christmas....



**Get To Know Panamá ~ Immigration (ugh!)**

Imagine having to remember each day to carry your ID card before you leave the house, in car or on foot, in case you get stopped by a policeman who asks, "What permission do you have to be here?" This describes not a communist nor a sensitive country, but almost any country where missionaries serve.

We are asked during deputation, and by e-mail, "what do you do every day?" One out-of-the-ordinary activities is processing our missionary visa.

We have to provide dozens of documents, some have to be authenticated in the US, and pay hundreds of dollars both to the government and to lawyers. Plus wait in offices. And once you think you're done, it seems there's always something else you need to do or pay or get. That's where the "ugh!" comes in.

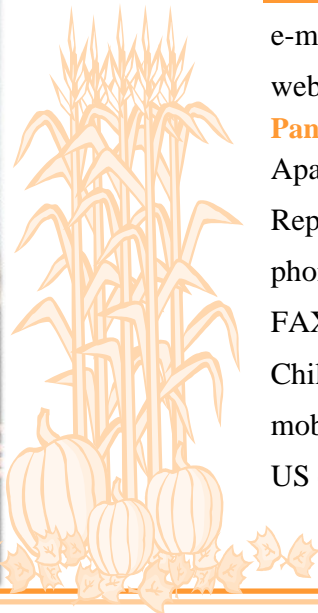
Friends from another mission agency, with over ten years experience in Panamá, had their visa request denied. It has now been resolved for them with additional paperwork. Incidents like this reflect an increasingly harsher policy toward evangelical missionaries. We are grateful it's not as bad here as in some sensitive countries where "missionaries" are illegal. Still we ask you to pray for continued open doors for missionaries here in Panamá.



### A Final Word

Recently I sent an e-mail to a church who had asked how they could help us out. In closing I mentioned that monthly financial support is very practical and needed. We've seen the expected "decay" of pledges begin earlier than expected. We are trusting the Lord to be able to extend an extra year until 2008 so that Chloe can graduate High School here with her friends. For those and other reasons, we need to be more aggressive in soliciting new and increased pledge support. If you'd like to join our support team, please let us know.

For those who are faithful in prayer and financial support of our ministry, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your partnership!



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