

The Jones Journal



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

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A Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2016 from the Joneses!

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him...

Matthew 2:10-11a ESV

With the Wise Men, may we seek and worship Him too.



In addition to the regular monthly e-Mailer updates on our life, ministry, praise, and prayer, this yearend holiday newsletter adds a healthy portion of Thanksgiving—for the prayer and financial support we have received from so many of you! We appreciate your sacrifice made during a challenging economy. Thank you for your faithfully supporting us before the Lord.

Ministry Report

Thanks for praying for us and for Panamá's kids:



Ngobe Indian Family Conference: with Pastor Roy Rhodes and team from Abundant Life Community Church in Alton IL we saw largest attendance to date—well over 5000—and 120+ new believers baptized.

Missionary visa “miracle” (our lawyer’s words): after previously rejecting our application based on a name discrepancy, and on the day we were to submit our appeal they *inexplicably* approved our two-year visa. Government bureaucracies don’t work like that, but God does!

Getting settled in Panamá: we needed a little extra energy this fifth time, to shop for household goods, set up and clean up after storage room

fire, and the best part—getting reacquainted with our Panamanian colleagues and friends!



Future preachers: A product of our trained leaders, young Jair shared a challenging message for a stronger commitment to the Lord. The future of kids ministry shines bright.



Thanks for *supporting* the work here:

Evangelizing children

Reaching children for Jesus has been the motivation that God used to call us here to Panamá over 25 years ago. It is what keeps us here today. Please take a look at a few snapshots from this past year:



At the close of a first-ever kids rally with *T. Evangelístico La Bendición* (Evangelistic Blessing Church), all the children cried out to God during the altar service. When they were done, we then had them pray for the adults too—powerful!

Monte de Sión church invited us to speak for their summer vacation retreat. These kids impressed us entering freely into wholehearted worship and prayer on their own initiative. Director Nathalie de Tuñón and team did such a



great job leading worship that we invited them to lead that seminar topic a couple months later.

We visit different churches to encourage the pastors and especially the kids ministry volunteers. Pastora Regina, former Bible school student, invited us to come observe and then offer suggestions for her teachers. As we often do during children's church we teach kids to share their faith using the simple five-finger message: God loves me, I have sinned, Jesus died for me, I repent and receive him, and now I'm His child! Add animated gestures and they remember it well.



The kids love the gospel illusion tricks, such as the unending water pot seen here illustrating God's never-ending love. We just have to remind them it's not "magic," but illusion. About 100 participated in the missions parade down the Interamerican Highway with over 200 joining for the Festival of Colors. Each child heard the Gospel and received a Power-Mark Seeker Series com-



ic book. Special thanks for all the preparation by Pastora Itzel de Moreno (on right), our new coordinator for Colón province.

Training leaders

In this thanksgiving theme I want to be sure and highlight some of our dedicated volunteer staff. Fanny (on left) and Carolina have served for years with exceptional faithfulness, teaching seminar topics and helping organize outreach events. Please remember to pray for kids ministry heroes like these!

Training seminars topics for our leaders address their needs in context and provide opportunities for improvement. They include: effective clowning, praying for children at risk, classroom management, your talents for Christ, kids style worship leading, organizing kids camps, children in world and local missions, Christian and country, and our favorite time of year, Christmas! Yvonne directed the Christmas



love on the children—help with homework, take them out for ice cream, encourage their sports or hobby interests. Screening and training has begun for the first church members who responded. Pray

program we prepared, tying together several songs with Scriptures laid out in a dramatic portrayal allowing the children to retell the Christmas story.



Monthly seminars have now expanded from Panamá City also to Colón.

Orphan care: Yvonne visits the baby house weekly. One time a baby had been dropped off next to the garbage, with umbilical cord attached. With heavy hearts we pray for a loving Christian family to raise her and for protection in the mean time from the harmful effects of institutionalization. We have begun organizing mentors to befriend and



with us for more willing hearts.

Family Report

Here's an update on our family, in reverse order for a change:

Gracie

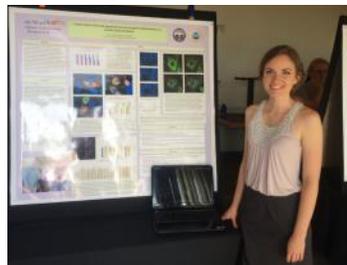
Gracie is the leader of her youth group worship band, plus sings and plays guitar or



piano in two additional worship bands. She graduates high school this spring before heading to Evangel U. in the fall planning to major in music therapy.

Celina

Celina graduates from Pepperdine U. this spring in Biology. She has begun applying to gradu-



ate schools for the next step in her academic career. She volunteers in her church's youth group. They are one of the teams planning to minister in Panamá next year.

Tony

Tony graduates from Evangel U. in



Elementary Education (TESOL & Spanish minors) after student teaching this next spring semester. He serves as president of the Nomads multicultural club on campus and also plays bass in his church's worship band.

Chloe

Chloe earned her nurse certification and continues to work nights. She loves her patients and is loved by them.

For fun she bought herself a bike this summer. She's on the hospitality committee at church and loves to be the nurse at ISMK (missionary kid) retreats, as she is doing this Thanksgiving.



Thanks for *envisioning* with us great things God is going to do next year:

Mentor families investing time with children who need to know the love of a family.

Children Reaching Children (our national slogan) by using their Fine Arts talents for the Lord, like this young man.

US teams from IL, CA, MA pouring into lives of Ngobe indian families, children at risk, and people in need of the Savior.

Leadership training expanding to other parts of the country.

You can see more photos and videos on our missionary Facebook page: facebook.com/panamakirkyvonnejones.



How you can reach us:

e-mail:.....kirk.jones@agmd.org
..... kirk@jonesjournal.org
web site:.....www.jonesjournal.org
Facebook panamakirkyvonnejones
Twitter: kirkajones

Panamá contact info:

mobile:.....+507 6077-4456
home VoIP phone: +1 417-595-4697
mail:....Apdo. 818-00282, Panamá City PANAMA

Permanent US:

% AGWM, Acct. # 2254795
1445 Boonville
Springfield, MO 65802-1894

