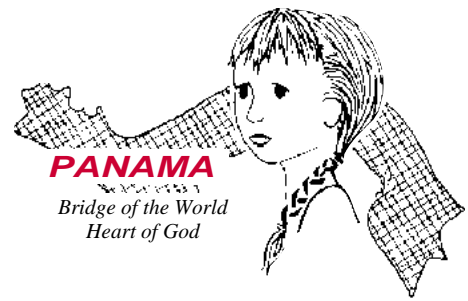


# The Jones Journal



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

Vol. XIV \* Issue 1 \* May 2003

## Ministry Report ~ by Kirk

### Return to Panamá

We're finally here. We're in Panamá! Thanks again for all your prayers, support and finances that made it possible.

We arrived on New Years Day! I wish I could capture the joy in our kids' voices as we drove from the airport into Panamá City. Anthony was even thrilled to see the trash alongside the road!

I wrote in our January e-mailer that the first house we saw looked pretty good, and it would be funny if it turns out to be the



one we choose because that's exactly what happened our previous two terms! Guess what? We did end up in that house. (Next term we just look at one house and move in!)

Here we are in the back of our Speed the Light Caravan full of boxes from the shipment.

In our arena of ministry, my first order of business was to attend the General Council Business Session. It was great to reconnect with our leaders and friends among our fellowship of ministers. We had opportunity to present our family before the General Assembly at the final evening service.

### Panamá's Centenario

In celebrating Panamá's Centenario (100th anniversary), our Children's Ministry Committee has been selected to inaugurate



the festivities by coordinating the first event of many that the Assemblies of God will host during this year. On Sunday April 27, 3:00 - 6:00pm there will be a parade through the heart of Panamá City for and by the children. We'll end with a special service and prayer time in the soccer stadium. Our committee has been hard at work. The date will have passed when you read this, so we'll provide a detailed report next issue, plus an online report soon.

### Portland Christian Center Ministry Team

This terrific team ministered in seven different settings from drug & gang-infested ghettos, to Teen Challenge centers, to transplanted Indian groups in the city, and to teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) in church. Our thanks to their leader, Pastor Dale Sies, and to the other 9 members, for ministering with great heart and attitude, and for the many ministry and personal blessings.

One personal glimpse from the week is of Yvonne and my former Bible School student, now a Pastor, Lucas Cerrud. (I bumped into 5 former Bible school students during the team's visit--great to see them faithful in ministry!) During our first phone call

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public schools and universities. I'd like to introduce you to my one student, Danilo Sáez. About twenty students are in the program. Danilo is the only one in the Cross-Cultural Missions track.

### **PRAYER**

- Children's Ministry Office remodel and then furniture, and then a phone.
- Dallis Quiñones threat of cancer returning (see Panamanian Profile).

### **PRAISE**

- Moved in, boxes unloaded, nobody injured, nothing broken that can't be replaced.
- After three months of looking, we've found space for the Children's Ministry Office, in the Bible School.

### **UPCOMING**

- For any future or prospective teams, I invite you to visit our new Team section on our web site for general questions & answers. (see "How to contact us" on back page).
- Project Compassion Medical team is coming from San Diego to do medical clinics among the poorest in urban and rural areas.

## **Family Report ~ by Yvonne**

Chloe is taking to her new school "like a duck to water" according to the Director when Kirk spoke with her after being back in school for a couple weeks.

Anthony and Celine are in the same class again, a 3rd-4th combo. They're glad to see their old

friends again, but aren't too thrilled about having to wear school uniforms. Gracie has enjoyed her 3 hours of *escuela*



planning for this visit, Pastor Lucas reminded me that I had written on his homework, "you have to fill in the answer completely!" To be quite frank, schoolwork was not his strong point.

Once at the church up in the mountains, speaking with the 150 plus who over-flowed from under the church's tin roof, I mentioned what Pastor Lucas had said to me. I had to laugh because the name of the church is "Jesus, the Answer"--and he had filled out that one completely!

### **IBAD (Bible Institute of the Assemblies of God)**

I've been asked to teach World Religions in the new final year Bible school program. This new level is significant because it will allow students to receive a degree in Theology recognized by Panamá's Ministry of Education. Graduates can teach Religion in



### **Panamanian Profile**

Allow me to introduce Dallis Quiñones, our new secretary. We first met her a few years back when she was part of the team that started the children's church at *Catedral de Vida*. She was an executive secretary for COPA, Panamá's international air carrier, until she got cancer. God has helped her through treatment and surgery. Recently the doctors said they found a cyst. So pray for complete healing for Dallis and strength of heart.

Manuel Miranda, our Assistant Director, "recruited" her from the Bible School class he taught. She is an enthusiastic person and a very hard worker. That shows in her tireless efforts organizing for the upcoming *Centenario* Parade.





every day. It's an all Spanish program for gringo kids to learn. About once a week the teacher tells us the latest that Gracie has done to make her laugh.

I have plugged into another ladies Bible study. I really enjoy the fellowship and spiritual nourishment.

### Chloe

Chloe maintains her love for basketball. She painted the room she shares with Gracie in the colors of the LA Lakers and Sparks. The Lakers' schedule is on the door. She was invited as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader to be on the high school team. Now she's captain of her intramural basketball team.

She played keyboard in concert



with the band "InDependence," from her youth group. It was at a restaurant with stage, lights, and everything.

### Anthony

Anthony was reading his Bible before school when he jumped up excitedly and read this verse out loud: "We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life." (2 Cor. 1:8). "We shouldn't have to wear uniforms!" he said with a smile. "Wait till I tell the Director." Then we had to let him know that he missed one little letter, the "n" in "uninformed."

### Celina

As Kirk has had the privilege to do the past two missionary retreats in Central America, he baptized our third child, Celina. We're so pleased with her growth in the Lord, and her obedience following Jesus in this step of her Christian walk. You can see our love for her in this hug just after she came up.

We let the kids paint their own rooms. Celina turned into a graffiti artist on us! (see pix on web site)



### Gracie

Our four-year-old has a very active imagination. She is often in a world all her own. Many of her sentences begin with "Mommy, pretend that..." A pillow becomes her baby or a pencil becomes a sword to fight her brother.

One day Gracie's teacher, Miss Jules, asked her to pray in Spanish. All the kids offered to help her since she was the new student, but she quickly said, "No, I will do it myself." So she proceeded to pray a prayer that probably only the Lord could understand.

### Rookie

We're pleased to introduce the newest member of our family – Rookie! That's also him in Chloe's arms. He's a mutt—part German Shepherd, part Golden Lab, and part pooping machine!



### A Final Word



Arroyo Grande, CA

Gracie saying "Good-bye" to her good buddy Cody.

*Saying Good-bye...  
Saying Hello...*

*Back in Panamá!*



Panamá City, Panamá

Anthony saying "Hello" to his good buddy Luis.



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