

The Jones Journal



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

Vol. XV * Issue 2 * July 2004

Ministry Report ~ by Kirk

Thank you, once again, for your prayers and finances. I typically end our monthly e-Mailers with our expression of gratitude. I wanted to be sure and begin this newsletter with a declaration of appreciation to you and to the Lord for making this missionary adventure possible for us.

And he who reaps receives wages and gathers fruit to life eternal, so that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.

(John 4:36 MKJV)

KidsQuest International: Training & Crusade

First of all, I want to say "thanks" to all of you e-Mailer readers who responded letting us know you were praying for the Crusade, and for those who prayed without letting us know. You can see our photo report online in Teams > KidsQuest.

The Crusade was held 2-4 April, after three full days of training the Panamanian team. Attendance was about 250, which was less than we had hoped for. Each Crusade meeting ended with an altar call where most every child responded. The final night each child received the first of six PowerMark Seeker Series comic books. We've already had several calls to our Ministry Office asking for episode #2! That will provide opportunity for nearby churches to follow up.

It's the personal stories, like



Evaristo below, from the red-light district of Curundu, shown after he won 2nd prize in the visitor campaign, that are so rewarding to hear (see 4/04 e-Mailer).

Special thanks to KidsQuest Founders Steve & Mindy Benintendi, Team Directors Phil & Robin Malcolm for training us and giving us terrific evangelistic tools in the Crusade kit.

KidsQuest International Leaders Seminar

About 150 adults attended the three nights of the Leaders Seminar. We invited other evangelical churches to participate. Topics included: Biblical Bases for Children's Ministries, Discipline, Age Characteristics, Puppets, Object Lessons, Ballooning, and Clowning.

We heard terrific reports afterwards. One woman said she received confirmation of God's call on her life to Children's Ministries. We handed out a pack



In This Issue

MINISTRY REPORT:

<i>KidsQuest International: Training, Crusade & Leaders Seminar</i>	1
<i>KidsQuest Panamá: La Felicidad church</i>	2
<i>Children's Ministries Leaders Seminars</i>	2
PRAYER~PRAISE~UPCOMING	2
<i>Get to Know Panamá</i>	2
<i>Panamanian Profile</i>	3
FAMILY REPORT:	
<i>Chloe, Anthony, Celina, Gracie</i>	3
FINAL WORD	4



"sin" written on it. Even before he came onstage, the kids went wild just hearing his theme music!

Children's Ministries Leaders Seminars

May's seminar was on clowning by Dallis Quiñones & Victoria de Chavarría and on cell group ministry for children by me. Attendance was 60 leaders, which was a considerable increase, due to the follow up from the Int'l KidsQuest seminar in April.

June's seminar highlighted teaching materials from Resource and Development Ministries (RDM) at AGWM. Our thanks go out to the terrific missionaries who are writing, editing, translating and making it a lot easier for local teachers and children's ministries leaders here

in Latin America.

PRAYER

- KidsQuest Crusades coming next to Panamá's interior: Santiago (8/04), Concepción (10/04).
- Our ministry team will do PK ministry at Annual Pastor's Retreat in late July.

PRAISE

- We thank the Lord for the surprise blessing of being given use of a used ministry truck for outreach presentations.
- Our kids finished their school year strong and healthy, in body and spirit, for which we're grateful.

UPCOMING

- Georgia AIM youth choir led by Kevin Lewis, 15-24 July.
- Surprise, AZ medical

of Light-for-the-Lost children's tracts with an invitation to attend next month's Leaders Seminar.

KidsQuest Panamá: La Felicidad church

We held our first local KidsQuest Crusade here in Panamá at the *La Felicidad* ("happiness") church coordinated by Victoria de Chavarría. Apart from technical difficulties, it was a great three days of Crusade. That was after 7 nights of practice with our 40+ volunteer team members.

Attendance figures for the three evenings were: 166, 396, and 545. Pictured above are kids who came to pray at the altar on the second night. Along with clowns Ding and Ling, CJ is our mascot hero. He's a ninja Tiger, whose initials stand for *¡Confiar en Jesús!*--Trust Jesus! Here you see him breaking a board with



Get To Know Panamá's History

This is the account of General Moisés Giroldi's failed coup attempt, in the words of his widow Adela: Gen. Moisés Giroldi served as chief of Security under *Comandante* Gen. Manuel Noriega. At high level staff meetings he heard the offers made by the US to help Panamá, which were soundly rejected by Noriega and his loyalists. Noriega intended to make Panamá a second Cuba.

Giroldi's troops suffered economic hardships. Noriega increasingly abused alcohol, drugs and practiced the occult. Noriega mistrusted and undermined highest ranking officers. Noriega mixed the military and political positions. All of this lack of respect for military discipline bothered Giroldi greatly. So he made a bold decision to stage a coup, arrest Noriega and turn him over to US military forces.

In October 1989 Giroldi secretly met with a US high-ranking official who agreed to provide sanctuary for Adela and her three children (ages 13, 8, and 7) for two to three days while Giroldi executed his plan and then they would all flee to the US. Giroldi held Noriega in custody for many desperate hours. Noriega tricked him into believing he could be exiled in the US where he and his family would be safe. He gave his weapon to Noriega. He was later executed, along with 11 other officers, for their part in the coup attempt.

From Adela's perspective waiting in a safehouse, she knew something was wrong that first afternoon when the guards turned off all TV, radio and phone connections. Three days later her sister-in-law arrives at the base, seeking asylum, and dressed in black. She confirms what Adela suspected: the coup failed and Noriega executed her husband and other officers.

Later that same night US soldiers bring Adela a photo ID of a man claiming to be a family member who wanted to see her. She didn't recognize him. So the US military questioned him and realized he was sent in an assassination attempt on Adela and her three children. As quickly as possible Adela and her children were flown to Miami, where they spent the next five months in exile, returning to Panamá in March 1990.

Panamá's Present: On 2 May 2004 Panamá elected her next president, without incident or problem, Martin Torrijos, son of General Omar Torrijos, the beloved dictator (now deceased) who negotiated the Canal treaty with President Jimmy Carter. No worries--this does not represent a return to

outreach team led by Steve Elam, 30 July – 7 August (see website > Teams).

Family Report ~ by Yvonne

Chloe

Chloe went by herself to El Salvador for the AG



MK Retreat. One of the first things she told us afterwards was that she's so glad she's an MK!

Chloe celebrated her 14th birthday at the beach with friends and family... and her badly sprained ankle elevated! How did it happen? Goofing around playing basketball at school. She had a cast for three weeks. What upset her most was that nobody could see the beautiful shades of

black and blue under the cast.

Anthony

This past semester Anthony and Celina played basketball two nights a week at school. They're getting great exercise, learning some new basketball moves, despite the swarms of tropical bugs attracted to the lights! Anthony has discovered raquetball—and loves it! We play in a former army base gym, now that it is open to the public.



Celina

Celina continues to expand her repertoire of arts and now crafts. She's added woodworking, with a little help



from Dad, building a "cat" house for Kiwi and Rascal. In addition she's almost done with her own unique design of a quilt made of 9 squares with 9 different needlework animals.

Gracie

Gracie just graduated from Kindergarten, shown here receiving her diploma from School Director, Pastor Bob Gunn. Yvonne accompanied while her class sang an adorable rendition of how they are ready for "First Grade, First Grade" (to the tune of "New York, New York"). This was the first time in 4 years that Gracie wore a pretty dress-- and didn't even fight it!



Panamanian Profile

This is Adela's (widow of Giroldi) account of her Journey to Salvation in Jesus Christ: *(first read story of coup on opposite page)*

Besides the clothes on her back, literally the only thing Adela took with her from Panamá going into exile in the US was the book of Psalms. Psalm 68:5, in particular, was of great comfort to her: *In His holy dwelling God is the father of the fatherless, and the judge of the widows.*

After recently being widowed, one morning she heard in her heart a voice repeating the words of Psalm 23. She got into the car and drove listening to Hermano Pablo Finkenbinder on the radio and with tears she prayed. She found her Bible and began reading the Psalms morning, afternoon and night. Now she repeated Psalm 23 (and other Psalms) from memory, and from then on she didn't hear the voice in her head.

She watched Christian TV programs translated into Spanish. Each Sunday she prayed to Jesus and cried and wondered why she cried. She would read the Bible at lunch for her small children to see. They would pray together for needs. What she wanted was for her children not to grow up with hate and bitterness due to what happened to their father.



At first, after returning to Panamá, her eldest son, Moisés, wanted to kill anyone who "smelled" of former Defense Forces. He was filled with anger and desire for vengeance. One day he saw the son of a former general involved in his dad's assassination and he wanted to fight him. His mom told him, "your father's name is remembered with respect. His father is remembered as a traitor. That young man has to live with that the rest of his life."

Adela had been looking for a church like the ones she saw on TV--none of the traditional churches she visited satisfied her heart's longing for "something different." During worship at Hosanna AG church, she began crying and felt she found what she had been seeking. When the Apostle Edwin Álvarez preached, she felt like he was thinking just like her. It was the Holy Spirit speaking to her heart. That was in 1999 and she met Jesus and became His follower 100%. And He became her Husband.

For the longest time her daughter Karina didn't want anything to do with a God who would let her Daddy be killed like that. It was His fault, she felt. Adela gave up a small business she had started in order to stay home with the children. God used that time to eventually heal her kids. In particular, just last year (2003), Karina finally received inner healing and accepted the Lord into her heart.

Through her tears Adela told me that this was her first interview to share what happened with her husband--and how she and her three children later came to the Lord. She expressed extreme gratitude for what God had done in their lives. "He can do it in any family," she said. "God is my only hope!"

A Final Word - A Patriotic Tribute to a Hero

And where does that strength come from? Where is that courage learned? It is the faith of a boy who read the Bible with his mom. It is the faith of a man lying in an operating room who prayed for the one who shot him before he prayed for himself. It is the faith of a man with a fearful illness who waited on the Lord to call him home.

Now death has done all that death can do, and as Ronald Wilson Reagan goes his way, we are left with the joyful hope he shared.

In his last years he saw through a glass darkly. Now he sees his Savior face to face.

Pres. George W. Bush, Eulogy of Pres. Ronald W. Reagan, 6/11/04



Happy 4th!

How you can reach us:

e-mail:kirk@jonesjournal.org
web site: www.jonesjournal.org

Panamá info:

Apartado 818-11409, Bethania
Republica de PANAMA
phone: +507 279-1048
FAX: +507 260-1048
Children's Ministries Office: +507 261-5537
mobile: +507 655-7989
US eFax 801-697-7176
(note: from US, first dial 011)

Permanent US:

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

Kirk & Yvonne Jones

MISSIONARIES TO THE CHILDREN OF PANAMA

Foothill Christian Center
242 W. Baseline
Glendora, CA 91740

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Dated Material * Please Expedite*

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Glendora, CA
Permit No. 87



This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.