

**A Final Word**

Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives. That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.

(Galatians 5:25-26 The Message)



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**Kirk & Yvonne Jones**

MISSIONARIES TO THE CHILDREN OF PANAMA

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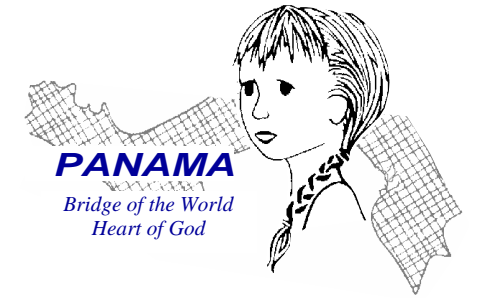
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# The Jones Journal



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

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**Ministry Report ~  
 by Kirk**

**KidsQuest Crusades:  
 Christmas & Jacú**

The ministry truck was parked in the middle of the *San Miguelito* soccer field with the stage folded out, and it downpoured for a solid hour. We all got soaked, but after it quit we simply finished setting up and held the Christmas Crusade a couple hours later. Even with all that, over 400 children attended, like these three boys. The vast majority of them prayed to receive “the



best Christmas gift ever -- Jesus!” Upon leaving the Crusade every child received a copy of PowerMark Seeker Series comic book.

We also appreciate those who prayed for the KidsQuest Crusade in *Jacú*, SW tip of Panamá, in January. There were 331 in total attendance with about 100 new visitors. Our Rep. Edilma Villarreal



viation for “Trust Jesus”), plus Games captain Fanny.

**Guaymí Family Retreat**

Let me breakdown the numbers:

- 3500+ total attendance for 6 days.
- 750+ children. We had copied 800 memory verse pages, and counted the left-overs.
- 70 believers baptized after pastoral approval and then taking the week-long baptism doctrines class at the Retreat.



leads the children here in salvation prayer. We estimate that during the three days 150 children prayed to receive Jesus as Savior.

Here are the Visitor Campaign winners: Milagros (left) and Rojelin (right) along with our “heroes” Ding, Ling and Bengal tiger “CJ” (Spanish abbre-

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- 5 powerful preachers from around the world: Luis Cabral, New Zealand, Roy Rhodes, Kansas, USA, Steve Graner, missionary to Colombia, Terry Bell, missionary to Panamá, Kent Moody, Convoy of Hope, USA.

- 2 shipping containers of grains, dried fruit, clothes and toys provided by Convoy of Hope, with special mention to Paola KS First Assembly of God for providing the corn.

Each day began with a devotional service followed by morning classes divided by age and group (ie. kids with us, youth, men, women, pastors, baptism candidates, extension Bible school students), then afternoon classes, a brief dip in the river to cool off (optional, but well worth it), and concluding with evening

revival-style services followed by a movie.

One of the testimonies I heard from Julio



Valdés, our coordinating pastor, touched my heart. A Guaymí pastor told him that in their homes they don't celebrate Christmas. They don't talk about New Year's Eve meal. They don't mention birthdays--most children couldn't tell you when they were born. That's because they can't buy presents or food for such celebrations. Then with a tear in his eye the pastor said, "This week is our Christmas, and New Years and birthday celebrations."

### Annual Session Family Ministry



Thanks for praying for ministry to our minister's kids during the Annual Session in January. Yvonne and the kids led the worship (Chloe & Anthony's specialty), teaching (Yvonne's specialty), games (Gracie's specialty) and crafts (Celina's specialty). That let me spend more time in the business sessions. The group of 25 PKs really bonded with our four MKs, with long hugs and good-byes when we had to leave.

We invite you to visit our website Media page to see

five-minute movie reports on the Christmas Crusade and the Guaymí Family retreat.

### Prayer

- We have begun to train more Crusade volunteers and would appreciate your prayers for them and us as we prepare for upcoming Crusades.
- I'd appreciate your prayers for my seminar on Leader's Principles for Success at the Deacons & Lay Leaders Retreat.

### Praise

- The floor and paint job of the ministry truck is finally done. Here you see the back door with our special thanks "with much gratitude to the SCDC Missionettes" for their donation!
- Pastor Randy Foster is



### Panamanian Profile



Here we are with our National Children's Ministries leaders in our home at the Christmas banquet in their honor -- from left to right: Manuel & wife Maribel, Fanny & husband José, Carolina, Dallis, Rigoberto & Juan Carlos.

bringing a team from Visalia First AG to minister in Duíma the end of June and install real bathrooms. The rest of the Missionette donation is helping get the septic tanks in place beforehand. This will be a great blessing and benefit to the school kids and staff.

### Upcoming

- Crusades are coming up the end of May in *Empalme* of Bocas del Toro Province with Pastor Rafael Alvarez; July in *Metetí* in the Darién jungle with Missionary Misael Concepción and then another one in Panamá City, *Victoriano Lorenzo* with our vice Director Manuel Miranda.
- We continue with monthly seminars in Panamá (Eastern zone); in May we'll be in *David* (West zone), in June we'll be in *La Arena* (Central zone).

### Get To Know Panamá

The **Ocean-to-Ocean Cayuco Race** began in 1954 with Frank Townsend (Panama Canal Co.) and his great idea to take some Boy Scouts to learn the culture, traditions and main method of transportation of Panamá's native Indians. They learned how to use the *cayuco*, made from rough dug outs of trees in the region, later finished by experts of the sport. The competition among them intensified and they chose to have a formal race. This began a 50 year + tradition to paddle from ocean to ocean through the Panama Canal. ©Balboa Paddle Club [http://www.cayucorace.org/]

Rumor has it they may not be allowed through the locks next year, so Chloe might be among the last ones to do it.

A KidsQuest Crusade follows in *La Arena* a week later. As always, we invite you to join us in prayer along with our Panamanian Missionaries and Pastors for many children to know and serve Jesus.

### Family Report ~ by Yvonne



### Chloe

"Seaweed" was the name of Chloe's *cayuco* dugout canoe. Her team of four girls finished the 43 mile, three day Ocean-to-Ocean race safe and sound in a total time of 7 hrs. 31 min. 52 sec. Here's Chloe and her #1 fan club, with our Seaweed T-shirts and everything, cheering her on the last day of the race.

### Anthony

Anthony's sense of humor is developing right along with his growth into a fine young man. The most recent example is when some

friends gave our family bags of chocolates and candies from the States. Anthony came to me while he was holding the bags and said with a deadpan expression, "Mom, say 'yes' after everything I ask you."

### Celina

Celina's small group leader, Miss Thompson, invited her girls for an overniter. They had a great time, only sleeping about an hour. What seemed to impress Celina the most was how much stuff they did, because, as she said, when you just sleep, it's like nothing happens. To which her parents say, "Amen!"

### Gracie

Gracie bought roller blades with her very own money. She has mastered the two-wheeler bicycle, so now she wants to do skating. She actually is learning very fast. We made her also buy a set of pads--knees, elbows, wrist and helmet. What she really needs is padding on her back side. That's where she says it hurts the most when she falls down!

Please note: *For those who receive only the print version of our newsletter, please receive my apology that our Christmas newsletter was incomplete due to printer's error. We invite you to see how it should have looked online on our website Newsletter page.*

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