



Well my second month has come to an end here, and I can hardly believe how quickly the time has passed. This month has been packed full of learning experiences and opportunities to serve the Lord. Greg, Kristin, Ruth and I have started daily devotions in the morning along with a Bible Study on each night that we are all together. This has provided us with an amazing opportunity to learn from each other, strengthen our missionary team, and grow closer to the Lord. God has been using the time to equip me with the wisdom and strength I need to get through my days in Pantoja and Tres Brazos.

One experience I would love to share with you all is the trip we took to Haiti in early November. Ken Culver (co-founder of FFP), Wendy Buttner (Director of Education), Alex Patico (a friend of Jeff Spragens, an FFP co-founder) and Gregg Meister (Producer, Interlink Media) joined the four of us as we traveled to Batey Algodon, Pedernales and then into Haiti. This was an amazing experience for me, as it was my first trip to any of these places. Batey Algodon is one of communities where the Haitian immigrant agricultural workers live, and one in which the Foundation for Peace

has started building latrines, as well as installing a community water purification system. These communities are typically the ones with the most need, as many of them never had electricity or sanitary water for the people to use. A sizable portion of the Haitians that live in them are not welcomed into the Dominican Republic with open arms, and are not citizens of the Dominican Republic. Children born to parents in the DR who do not have DR citizenship are not granted citizenship in the Dominican Republic. The experience of witnessing the way of life in Batey Algodon opened my eyes to an even harder existence than in some of the communities where I work everyday in Santo Domingo.

After visiting Algodon we moved on to Pedernales, which is a city on the Dominican side of the Haiti border. In the evening we worshipped with the Pentecostal Church. Ercilia, Kristin, Ruth, and I sang a few songs—yes, that’s right, in the Dominican Republic, even I am asked to sing in church. That is one of my favorite things about this culture; during worship the focus is completely on God and anyone is welcome to praise the Lord through song, prayer or in any way the Spirit moves them. The focus is not on how beautifully the person sings, but is instead on the fact that they are praising the Lord. Kristin gave a wonderful sermon about moving the “dirt” that God places before you, the work or projects that He puts in front of each of us. It was a wonderful time of worship, and the presence of the Holy Spirit filled the church in Pedernales that night.

The next day we traveled into Haiti, which was an experience that I will carry with me throughout my life. The faces of the people there are carved into my memory, particularly the lack of hope in their eyes. It is amazing that you may become desensitized to the areas of poverty you teach in every day, but then God takes you to a place like Haiti and reminds you just how blessed you are, and just how important your work can be to people. It was a unique experience to be part of a trip that goes to visit the people and explore the possibility of one day working in their community. To see the place before any work is finished, before any changes are made, is truly amazing. It was a heartbreaking day, but also it planted the seed of ideas in our hearts, the seed that we hope one day to water, tend to, and watch bloom into a beautiful church, school, and/or water purification system, for the people of Anse-a-pitre, Haiti.

As far as my teaching efforts go, I have quite a few things to praise the Lord for this month. First, Ruth has joined me and we are beginning to know each other better and have success in the classroom. Working together in an already stressful situation is a challenge, but God is using our strengths for His good and allowing us to compliment each other in the classroom. Through Ruth and her gifts He has taught me various lessons involving patience, understanding, and acceptance. I thank the Lord for Ruth and her willingness to learn from me, work with me, and be patient with me. I also thank the Lord for giving me the ability to learn the language and the improvements I have had with my Spanish. Gloria a Dios! (Glory to God!)

There are a couple of specific prayer requests that I have for this month. Please pray for our classes in Tres Brazos, as they have been canceled for different reasons numerous times. We have actually only been in the school about five times. Please pray that the Lord will work out the schedule and allow us to increase the number of classes in

Tres Brazos in the months to come. Ask the Lord for patience for Ruth and me in Pantoja, as our class sizes are extremely large, our materials are almost non-existent, and behavior problems are common. Finally, ask the Lord to bless our time in the schools, allowing us to form relationships with the Dominican teachers and earn their respect.

Once again I thank you all for the support; your prayers are heard by the Lord and used in our ministry on a daily basis. Alabe el Señor! (Praise the Lord!)

Eryn Fredrick
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