

Cathy's Caribbean Quarterly

Being There

Dear Bonnie,

Dec 4, 2014



Joy explaining meds to Lolín.

Relationships are key to any missionary work, be it long-term or short-term. One of the big differences between the two styles of missions is that those relationships are expressed in a different way. We have a short-term medical team which comes twice a year to Angelina, one of the other communities where Fr. Felix serves. I've come to know some of the team members over the years, as they serve that community. They have their Angelina friends, know them by name, know some of their families and look forward to seeing them every time they come. Most of the year though, it is a long-distance relationship.

Being a long-term missionary allows for deeper relationships and more varied ones to develop. I wrote this description last 'winter', about a day off I had and thought I would share it with you now, as I finish visiting churches around the diocese of Colorado. After attending Morning Prayer, I walked over to Muma's for a haircut. I chatted briefly with her next-door neighbor Iris, the leader of Las Chicas Nices, before walking home. As I approached my home, Domingo, another church member, saw me and asked if I had a minute to check his blood pressure as he wasn't feeling well. His granddaughter, Lisana, was with him and thought it would be more interesting to stay with me than to tag along with him. The children from next door came by to watch a movie (see pic). In the afternoon I visited a man who is homebound and did some therapy with him. Passing by Aura's house on my way home, her daughter, Natasha, said Aura was at the 'colmado' or corner store. She was sitting, chatting with folks there and came out to talk with me. A bit later, after popping by Fr. Felix' house to talk about a few ministry things, a group of ladies from church heading to a bible study corralled me to join them. Afterwards, I got a call to check Felician's, Fr. Felix's mother-in-law, blood pressure. Nothing big, nothing extraordinary. Being there on a long-term basis simply allows these types of spontaneous opportunities to love my neighbor to occur.



Thank you for your prayers and support for this ministry. Should my funding permit, I hope to purchase a car when I return to the DR in order to facilitate transportation for this ever-evolving ministry. (Tax deductible gifts towards a vehicle do not have the 15% taken out and can be sent to SAMS, with my name and car fund in the memo line.) Please continue to pray that God has me where I'm needed and that I respond with love to all I encounter, both in Colorado and the DR.

Merry Christmas! May you know God's boundless mercy and grace throughout the coming year!

In Christ,

Cathy



Cathy Donahoe is a SAMS Missionary and Physical Therapist serving in the Dominican Republic.

Donations: SAMS, PO Box 399; Ambridge, PA 15003 with Cathy Donahoe in the memo line of the check or go to the website <https://secure-q.net/Donations/SAMS/3311> or <http://samsusa.org/givetomissionaries>

Cards/letters: Cathy Donahoe, Apartado 587, San Pedro de Macoris 21000, Dominican Republic

before 12/20/2014: Cathy Donahoe, 635 Fillmore St. Denver, CO 80206

Email: cathyd@turbonet.com website: www.cathydonahoe.net (more pictures available on the website.)

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