

# *CCA Senior Class Mission Trip to the DR*

## *Daily Reports*

Saturday, May 22, 2010 Update:

By: Mrs. Wade and Miss Zima

After fundraising for what seems like forever, we have finally made it here. Travel went very well, all our luggage and supplies arrived undamaged and we arrived at the SCORE Complex at about 3:00 p.m. We spent some time in the pool cooling off and then sorted through our ministry bags to organize all of our supplies. Everyone is happy to be here, finally!

After dinner, we walked to the beach and Jeff presented a devotional to us and everyone had an opportunity to share his/her impressions of the trip so far. We also had an opportunity to go into the water at the beach. Tomorrow we will be going to a local church to hear their service and do children's church as well. We will also be singing "Mighty to Save," which was sung at the Commissioning Service.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Sunday, May 23, 2010, AM Update:

By Grace Craigie, Angela Roan, and Cassie Calhoun

We arrived at Villa Espana for church this morning and were surprised to see how new and beautiful the church itself was. It is only a year old to date and there were many people for such a young church. From the second we got off the bus we were encircled by children, they hugged us and led us into the church. Some of the message was hard to follow because it was all in Spanish, but what we could understand was mainly focused upon Christ being the only way we are wise as individuals on this Earth.

After worship, the children were taken into Sunday school and many of us were divided into different groups to help teach them about the Bible. All of the children were loving and paid close attention to what our translators and we were teaching them. They were so happy when we passed out simple crafts for them to do and little pieces of candy that we would normally take for granted. It touched all of our hearts to see them and the people within the church enjoying us and enjoying the worship time.

In our service, one of the missionaries, Nathan, talked to us about not focusing so much on works, but more on belief. He had us memorize John 6:27, which tells us not to worry about literal food for our bodies, but on the bread of life which will benefit us eternally.

Back in the main service, we sang our song for the people. We sang Mighty to Save in Spanish, and it went really well. They had us sing it twice, and the congregation really seemed to enjoy and appreciate it very much. It was a really great experience for us to be here and to be a part of their service.

Sunday, May 23, 2010, PM Update:

By: Cameron Tom and Mitch Narbe

After church we returned to the Score Complex and had lunch. They treated us with Hot Dogs and if we so chose we could have a nice chili dog. We ate and took a little time to chill out and lay around for about a half an hour before we went out for the rest of the day.

Once we left we could do two things. One being going to the beach, where everybody eventually ended up, and the other was to take a little horseback ride through a nearby village. The beach that we go to is about a 5 minute walk from the complex and let me tell you the beach is absolutely beautiful. While at the beach people had a good time laying around, frolicking in the ocean (which is actually very warm), playing soccer, enjoying long luxurious walks on the beach, and some people took the liberty to take a nice little run. Altogether we spent about 4-5 hours on the beach this afternoon and enjoyed bonding together while soaking up the sun. Finally we would just really appreciate if you would keep us in your prayers.

Tomorrow we will really start our missionary work as we will head out to some villages. Also this afternoon as they were coming home from church, a SCORE missionary, not part of our group, was involved in a car accident (the Valdez family). He, his wife and two sons were in the car as it happened. The wife and two children have been released with minor cuts and bruises, but the father has a broken arm and is being x-rayed for a broken rib. Nothing life threatening, but this is definitely a serious incident and we would really appreciate your prayers in this matter. Thank you Very Much.

#### Monday, May 24, 2010, AM Update:

By: Megan McCluskey and Emily Faracca

This morning we went to breakfast and had eggs and toast. Then we got on the bus at 9:00 and left the Score Complex for Inocencia and visited the village. In the village we went to the school house and performed our skits and sang our song "Mighty to Save" twice at the school there. Then, half of us went to play baseball, and the other half stayed with the children. While with the children, we did a craft with them which was small wooden airplanes. We played with the children and passed out play-doh as well. We were able to donate school supplies for the school in the village as well. We split up into teams with the children and began the game. As we were playing, Kiko was at bat, hit the ball, and it bounced and hit Rebekah Moser in the nose and the game immediately stopped. We were able to treat her with some ice and it felt much better. Rebekah's first concern was that she would be able to play soccer in the afternoon. We returned to the bus, and were on our way to the grocery store called Jumbo.

When we got to Jumbo, we exchanged our money for pesos (\$1.00=36.5 pesos). Then we all began shopping for foods and drinks. After we were done we returned to the complex and had lunch. We hope that you are keeping us in your prayers and pray that God will continue to use us to spread his word.

#### PM Update, by Megan McCluskey and Emily Faracca

After our lunch break, we headed to the SCORE sports complex. There we participated in a soccer tournament including five other teams. To start the afternoon off we performed one of our skits in front of all the teams. Two men, Aby and Fermin spoke and gave a gospel message. Nine people raised their hand to accept Christ, and we gave them follow-up booklets. 12 of our seniors participated in the games, and we made it all the way to the championship through hard work and determination. The long tournament lasted four hours in the hot sun. Along with the seniors watching, the Dominicans also cheered for USA. However, we lost in the championship by one point in the last two minutes.

While some played soccer, others played water-volleyball in the beautiful pool. The net for the pool was donated to the sports complex by our senior class. The game was played Americans vs. Dominicans, where we lost miserably, but had tons of fun. Each team was loud shouting their own chants, and we couldn't understand each other very well. Afterwards, we had time to talk to some the Dominicans on the other team and test our Spanish while they were testing their English, to understand that they had just as much trouble understanding us as we did understanding them. We enjoyed the fellowship and getting a taste of a different culture. We realized that sports is an incredible way to minister to people, as well as build relationships for the future, even without speaking their language. We also found out that many SCORE missionaries were reached through sports.

Thank you for your continuous support and prayer!!!!

Tuesday, May 25, 2010.

The group was split today doing two separate work projects. The following is an update from each group.

Report 1 - by: Jason Wolanyk and Andy Robinson

Bench Making work project group (stayed at SCORE):

Before we could begin making the benches, we had to gather the tools and watch a tutorial given by Jeff. The 10 benches are being given to a church in a village, as well as the scraps that will be used for firewood.

First, the wood was measured into various parts, for the different parts of the benches. Wood was then cut and organized into groups. After Jeff had showed us the first bench, we created several groups and started our record-breaking bench work. While some people cut wood, others assembled the benches and sanded them. After three hours, we had assembled 10 benches, which was the fastest time in the art of bench-making here at SCORE, according to Jeff. In the end, we worked together well and were able to complete the task well before the expected time.

We finished the benches so quickly that after lunch we were able to have some free time in the pool. After some time in the pool, we got the ministry bags from Jeff's room and began making bags to hand out at one of the villages on Thursday. We put soap, some toothbrushes, shampoo, toothpaste, combs, band-aids and wash cloths in each large Ziploc bag, so there is one per family. We will be feeding a village on Thursday and, along with the food, we will be handing out these bags as well. This went very quickly as we formed an "assembly-like line" and then each put something in the bag.

From Miss Zima:

This was a GREAT group to work with. Students working on the benches were: Rebekah, Andy R., Jason, Mitch, Ben, Sarah, Kim, Angela, James and Steve. They saw what the task was and they went right to it. After Jeff showed them how to cut the wood, Ben, Jason, Mitch and James immediately took over and cut all the wood needed for each bench. Andy led the group at first in assembling the benches and, after Jeff showed them what to do, two more groups formed to assemble the next bench. At the end, everyone was helping to put the remaining benches together. They worked together and, even when individual groups were done with their assigned task, they all pitched in to complete the rest of it. In fact, when they were told they could go to lunch, they wanted to finish the sanding of the benches before they ate. It was so much fun to be able to work with this group and to see them working so closely together and having fun was just a joy to see.

Report 2 – by Amy Albert and Cassie Grainge

Church painting work project group (at the village of Los Montones):

Los Montones is the village that last year's senior class (Class of 2009) donated money to so they could build the foundation of their church (another group donated the money/materials to build the church from the foundation up). The group today was able to go to see the completed church and help with painting projects there as well.

As we arrived at this village, we split into two groups.

Group 1, which was Lauren, Cassie C, Grace, Andrea, Jon and Ashley, painted long panels white, which were to be put up and used in the church for projecting words for worship songs.

Group 2, which was Faye, Megan, Amy, Cassie G, Blair, Emily, Chris, Camille, Andrew M, and Cameron, sanded and painted an old bar so it could be used as a village restaurant. The profits are used to help the

discipleship program. This restaurant will be run by some of the village men who are currently being discipled by Pastor Aby. These projects were very tiring and we all worked very hard. We worked almost nonstop except for a quick lunch break. After about seven hours of work, we finished the tasks set before us. Covered in paint, sweat, and rain, we all hopped back on the bus and headed back to the SCORE complex. Although it was hard work, we all enjoyed the fellowship and the feeling of accomplishment when we finished the projects.  
Love you Mom and Dad!

From Mrs. Wade:

The painting group was awesome! The work seemed endless and even when we were done painting, there was cleanup. I was so proud to work with this group. They laughed and never complained about the work. Parents you should be proud of each one. We are having a great time. Thank you for your prayers. I am feeling a lot better today! Keep praying for our group to grow closer to God each day.

### Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Update by James Scott and Blair Loeffler

After we sent the update last night (Tuesday), we had a delicious dinner of taco salad, a favorite meal here at SCORE. We then went to the Score Challenge Night devotions, led by the director here at SCORE, Ryan. He spoke about the apostle Paul, when he was in prison, and he challenged us with Paul's life and words. He talked about how, often times, we make everything about us and we are "me" centered but really, it isn't about us, and what we want (what college we want to go to, what career path we want, etc.); it is about what God wants and what God wants to do through us.

Ryan shared the story of a missionary who worked with SCORE, Hugo Liborio. Last year's class met Hugo and his wife, Sarah, and we actually spent quite a bit of time with them last year, as well as with their young son, Mattias. Hugo was someone who loved the Lord and put God first in everything. Last year's class saw this last year in the short time they were here—Hugo loved God and it showed through his life.

In December, Hugo died suddenly just days before Christmas, leaving behind his wife, his son, and a two month old baby girl, Layla. Hugo lived a life that showed that God was first and he was second and God took him home. It shows us that we do not know how much time we have, and we have to use every second we can for God. Hugo's wife, Sarah, is back here serving in the DR. Ryan challenged us to think this way – I am second. My wants, my wishes, my goals, are ALL second to what God wants me to do. He also encouraged us to not just "talk the talk," but to have an actual relationship with Jesus Christ, and to know Him intimately.

AM (Wednesday) Update:

Today we went to the "straw market" which was in the capitol, Santo Domingo. The straw market was like a flea market. They had lots of jewelry and statues and other items that we bought like a barter economy. We had to barter to get really good prices for items. We ate at restaurants that had some American foods, and we visited one of the world's oldest Catholic cathedrals. We also went sight seeing and saw a memorial building for the notorious Dominicans who died such as past presidents and generals. Lauren Murphy and Miss Zima stayed back at the SCORE Complex for extra rest and relaxation, as Lauren wasn't feeling up to the expedition.

PM Update by Faye-faye (Noel) and Bekah-boo (Moser)

This afternoon we attended a church service in the village of Los Montones where we painted yesterday. (This was the church for which that last year's class had donated money for the foundation.) After singing a few songs and listening to a devotion, we performed our "puppet" skit and sang "Mighty to Save" again in Spanish, and received a warm applause. Then pastor Aby gave a relevant as well as entertaining sermon with the aid of a very helpful translator. We heard testimonies about how much the village has changed since SCORE missionaries first entered the village 6 years ago. The oppression that was felt then has now turned to joy and

passion for Christ that is evident on every villager's face. We finished the service by singing to Christian Wandowski as he celebrates his birthday on Friday.

We also went to dinner at a local restaurant, called Mandalay, and it was delicious! J  
We love and miss you all. Hope all is well in Buffalo J.

P.S. Love you Mom and Dad! From Faye

P.P.S. Love you and my nose is fine Mommy and Daddy! –Bekah

#### Thursday, May 27, 2010

AM update by Camille Chapman, Ashley Barbosa, and Jon Roberson

“¡Hola!” from the Dominican Republic. We are having a blast! This morning we went to JUMBO market to buy loads of food for families in two villages- Monte Largo and Monte Cristo. In Monte Cristo, we went to the nursing home and sang our song “Mighty to Save” and gave them food. At Monte Largo, we sang our song again, while Lauren Murphy and Cassie Grainge shared their testimony. Jeff Hackett shared the gospel message after we did the “Bright Eyes” skit. As a result, several people raised their hands and came to know Christ! Praise the Lord! He is so awesome! We gave the people of the village food and watched as their faces lit up with joy. We are so thankful and so excited to see the work that God is going to do this afternoon!

PM Update by Andrea Martinic and Lauren Mae Murphy

Buenas tardes! This afternoon our class visited Casa de luz. This is an orphanage for disabled children. At the orphanage the class connected both collectively as well as individually with the disabled children. The afternoon was filled with impromptu puppet shows, wheel chair races, peek-a-boo, bubbles, and cuddling with the children. We also sang “Mighty to Save” for them. It was hard to say goodbye and some of us had to literally be pulled away from the children in order to leave. As we travel back to the Score Complex we take with us fond memories, and softer and more loving hearts to those less fortunate. Hasta luego!

Tonight we will be having an Argentine BBQ at the Score Complex. The class last year did this as well, and all the money raised goes to support church planting in the Dominican Republic. We will be enjoying three different kinds of meats, salad, bread and iced tea. Tomorrow we will be going to a village in the morning to give our water filters and see them being used, and we will also be giving out sewing kits. Then, we will be spending the day at a local resort, swimming in the ocean, the pool and enjoying all-inclusive food.

#### Friday, May 28, 2010

AM Update by Andrew Mojica and Chris Wandowski

We spent a lot of yesterday (Thursday) working with another school from Myrtle Beach. They are a small school with just three students in their senior class but we had a lot of fun getting to know them and feeding the village and going to the orphanage with them as well.

Last night we had a delicious Argentine BBQ for dinner. It included pork, steak and spare ribs. It was delicious. After dinner we met to discuss some options of what to do with our additional money, and then we went to devotions with three other groups that are staying here at SCORE. During devotions, Ryan introduced all of the different ministries that are going on here at SCORE, and he told us about each missionary and what they are doing as well. It really helped us to see all that they do here for the people of the DR.

After that, Jeff spoke to the whole group that was there. He challenged us to think about something that we thought, if we had it, it would change our life. He discussed temporary things that we think will satisfy us but, eventually, the novelty wears off. He gave several examples and then he shared the story of how he became a missionary and what it means to put your yes on the table for God. We always worry about different

things and the “what if” scenarios, but when we put our yes on the table and are willing to do anything that God calls us to, God will use us in ways we can’t even begin to imagine. It was a very powerful message for us all to hear.

This morning (Friday), we went to a village and gave the people there water filters, Bibles, and candy. The people were happy to see us and they treated the whole group to sugar cane and a song by the children of the village. Our group set up the water filters for the people and demonstrated how to use them. We then handed out Bibles to the adults so that they could study God’s word for themselves. After that, we played Frisbee with the children and handed out candy to them. The people were very cordial and happy to see people in their village. Pastor Manny has been working with the people by preaching the gospel to them. During Jeff’s message, he gave the people an opportunity to accept Christ. To the delight of Manny and the whole group, many came to accept Christ, both young and old people. Our morning was very encouraging to us and we came away seeing how Christ works even in the smallest of villages.

PM Update by Sarah Williamson and Kim Glaeser:

Hola!!! Miss us yet? Ya, I bet you do. This afternoon we spent our day at the Barcelo Resort. As a class we spent a majority of the day lounging on the beach. We played in the sea, played volleyball with other people on the beach and soccer. There were also two pools we went in; one had a waterfall and the other had a slide. The food there was amazing-- there was a snack bar with all sorts of food from pizza to hamburgers that were all free and available all day. There was also another buffet open for lunch that had every type of food you could imagine. Later on in the afternoon both Lauren Murphy and Cassie Calhoun were baptized to show their faith in Jesus Christ. It was a really fun time and a great way to end our week together as a class. Love you all! From the most wonderful students in the class of 2010, Sarah and KimJ  
P.S miss you mommy and daddy we love you!!

This will be our last update and we will see you at the airport tomorrow night when we get home. Remember we will have our testimony service on Tuesday morning, June 1, during the regular chapel time (8:35- 9:20). This is chapel for grades 6-12, but parents are invited as well. Please remember to check the Delta airlines website in case there are any flight changes. As of now, we are scheduled to arrive in Buffalo at 10:30 p.m. [Flight delays saw the group actually arrive back in Buffalo at 1:15AM.]