

## Refuge of Hope School is such a great place to be!



*Thanks to your support, Refuge of Hope School continues to grow and thrive. The children are flourishing academically, socially, and spiritually. On our recent visit to the school, happiness abounded everywhere.*

*However, not only are we fulfilling our goal of providing a Christian education for those children who could not afford to go to school, but recently a government official recommended to a friend who was moving to Sosua that she send her children to Refuge of Hope School because of its high quality of education.*

*Also, while we were there, a mother of one of the students reported to the school director how her child is living out her faith at home. Recently the mother was bedridden with a high fever. Her child came to her bedside and said how they have been learning to trust Jesus for everything in school. So she placed her hands on her Mom's head and asked Jesus to heal her. The mother reported that immediately the fever went away and she was completely well.*

*Refuge of Hope School really is a great place to be.*

### Outreach to Street Children

Since the streets are so busy and dangerous during the weekends, the church has started special outreach program for children on Saturday and Sunday nights.



The Saturday evening program focuses on activity and Bible learning. On Sunday night, during the adult worship service, Taty and one of the young adults lead in a time of singing and worship and then everyone watches a Christian video. As a treat, all the children are given a bowl of popcorn to enjoy. A popcorn machine would be a huge blessing for the church. At the moment, Taty has to try to make it in a large cast iron cauldron over an open flame. This results in some burnt popcorn kernels, and worse, some burns on her arm.

### **The Town No One Could Reach**

The remote mountain town of Monte Llano has been a community that Dominican pastors and missionaries have been trying to reach with the gospel for over 47 years with no success. About two years ago Pastor Cristian organized a free medical clinic for the town. The mayor was so appreciative that he gave an open door for any ministry the church wanted to do in the future. A retired Dominican missionary volunteered to begin planting a church there and a small dilapidated building was rented for \$85 per month. After labouring for a year, there are now ten believers who have surrendered their lives to Christ. The ministry is very difficult and there are times that antagonists will gather and throw stones at the church when the believers gather for worship. On our recent trip, we held an outdoor rally in the town square which saw one young lady surrender her life to Christ. Please pray for Monte Llano and how the Lord may want to use you to reach this "unreachable" community.



**Brian Preaching in the town park**

## A Busy Week with Tremendous Blessings

Each time we go to the Dominican Republic, we are reminded of the vastness of the spiritual need that is found here. This was further highlighted by a conversation I had with Pastor Cristian. As we talked about the spiritual needs for his country, he asked if we would pray that more young people would respond to the call of God to give their lives to the Lord's service. There is a real urgency for new pastors and an equal demand for ongoing training for pastors and Christian leaders. We could really see it when we travelled to remote mountain communities and even cities which are away from main tourist destinations.

One city we visited was San Francisco. We wanted to go visit a storefront church that had recently opened up in a difficult area of the city. We joined an enthusiastic crowd who set up their plastic chairs on the sidewalk and the street as motorcycles zipped through the midst of us. Besides wanting to encourage them in their witness, our main mission was to deliver three cases of bibles. The people were overwhelmed with joy as we carried the bibles to the front of the crowd. They jumped, they shouted, they laughed, they hugged and they cried. The pastor, with tears in his eyes, held up one of the bibles and proclaimed, *"We are going to replace guns with bibles. We are going to replace drugs with bibles. We are going to reach this neighbourhood with the good news of Jesus."*

On another night, we set up the sound system at an intersection of paths in the middle of the poor barrio of La Piedra. After one of the young adults from the church sang a few worship songs, Linda shared a salvation message from the scriptures. Many people stood in doorways or along the sidewalk to listen. One young man climbed onto a close by rooftop so he could get a better view. As she concluded, a lady immediately came forward to surrender her life to Christ.



## Refuge of Hope School Teachers had an Intensive Week of Training



One of the main ministry activities of our recent Mission Trip was to provide an in depth workshop in early childhood literacy techniques for the teachers at Refuge of Hope School. Sandra and Frieda led this intensive 22 hour training over a period of four days. The teachers worked hard and were so appreciative to be able to upgrade their skills and learn new approaches for the classroom. Refuge of Hope School has asked AFC Canada to provide more of these training events as they are simply not available in the

Dominican Republic. As we visited the classrooms at the end of our Mission Trip, it was such a blessing to see the teachers immediately putting the new things they had learned into practice.

We are privileged to have such a wonderful group of teachers who are providing a safe, stimulating, happy, stable and enriching educational environment for the children. Not only that, but the children are also being grounded in the Scriptures and are even leading some of their parents to faith.

**The ministry in the Dominican Republic** continues to reap blessings on many different levels. From the planting of new churches to children's outreach to the distribution of bibles and the growth of Refuge of Hope School. All are helping to accelerate the spread of the gospel in a spiritually thirsty land. Would you consider sponsoring a classroom for \$50.00 per month? This will provide stability to the ministry of equipping these forgotten children with a strong Christian education. Please contact us for a Preauthorized Debit Form (PAD). Or a gift of \$75.00 will place five bibles in the hands of new believers. Thank you for helping AFC spread the Gospel.

