



Metro West
Caribbean Mission
 Refining a Nation's Potential

Monthly Update

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Outreach to the Dominican Republic

A Ministry of MetroWest
 Worship Center

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Mission Statement

To develop a model in Monte llano where we feed, educate, and equip the citizens spiritually and practically, with the skills needed to prosper in every area of life. Led by the Holy Spirit, we will then reproduce this prototype throughout the Island nation, "One Village at a time".

A Special Note

By Deb Cousins



Deb and two kindergarten boys

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.—1 Peter 4:10

I recently returned from an amazing women's mission trip (September 25th-October 3rd) and if I had to pick just one word to sum up this trip it would be "Growth." It had been seven years since

my last mission trip and I must say I was awestruck by the amount of growth and improvements to the school, the community, the extent of our outreach and the demeanor of those who moved from Boca Nueva to Monte llano

As I was preparing to go on the trip, I still had the vision in my head of the one room school-house with long benches that served as both desks and dining tables. The children were of all ages and the curriculum was rudimentary at best. I remember the teacher (only one) using a small portable blackboard (no eraser just his hand), other village children often peeking into the windows or standing in the door, children learning to speak Spanish (most spoke Creole) and no real area to have the children play at recess. There were no restroom facilities, running water, refrigeration etc. The lunch food was prepared in another home and brought into the school, served on the benches. It was a beginning.



School gate

When we arrived at the school in Monte llano and went through the secured gates, I couldn't believe my eyes. We had actual classrooms, with real desks, professional teachers, large blackboards equipped with erasers, a structured curriculum, well behaved uniformed children, an actual Principle and a Principle's Office, a large dining hall with an on-site kitchen and a

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huge playground. It looked like one of our schools in the US. The children in grades as low as 1st and 2nd are beginning to speak English while most of the 6th graders spoke and understood it very well. We actually had some graduated students come each afternoon (after their high school classes) to assist at the school and act as translators for us. Amazing!

I also noticed that there was a change in the way the people from Boca Nueva carried themselves. 10 years ago they seemed to just accept their circumstances, like nothing could be done, that they were meant to be poor. Some had beggar mentalities, and a spirit of poverty permeated throughout the village. Although they are still considered poor, they are more prosperous, they are taking responsibility and ownership and have real hope that they can improve their



Kindergarten classroom



Classroom exterior and courtyard

lives (you can see it in their faces), they have more faith and trust in the Lord, and are practicing biblical principles, which this mission has taught.

There also is more willingness for the churches to get together for the good of the community. We taught the children in one church and held a women's meeting in another. At the beginning, it took a miracle for that to happen.

Finally, although it must have been hard for the people to leave Boca Nueva and relocate to Monte llano, it turned out to be a blessing as Monte llano is a much larger village where we can now reach more people and continue our mission on a larger scale. The Sewing School has people attending that are not originally from Boca Nueva, and they are outreaching to women of Monte llano. The students are becoming the teachers.

I could go on and on, it was such a blessing to see the growth and I can't even begin to imagine what another 7 years will bring. God is awesome and for all those who are sponsoring a child, giving free-will offerings, giving of their time, or whatever it is, you are making a difference and sowing an incredible seed. What a blessing!

Deb Cousins

Note: Boca Nueva is the small village MCM first worked with when the mission was founded. Several years ago the government relocated the residents of Boca Nueva to Monte llano, which is a larger city.