



BAPTIST COURIERS FOR CHRIST

EST 1979

April 2025

SPONSORSHIP *for Servants*

by Joshua Stertz

HELP. Aren't you glad that God brought you help when you needed it? Psalm 46:1, "**God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.**" Among the first recorded words of God to Adam, the word *help* is found within the first 60 words in our King James Bible. God recognized that Adam needed a help meet for him, and throughout all our lives we need help in varying degrees. A couple of years ago we rolled out a program to help people (especially teens and young adults) reach the mission field with us. I have titled it Sponsorship for Servants. Any dollar given designated for this purpose will be used to help an individual who would love to participate in a CFC scripture outreach but needs some financial help to get there. Alastair Jossund is our most recent recipient from this fund, and he wrote the following paragraph after participating in the EPIC Trip One to Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

"This trip to Puerto Rico has been a huge encouragement to me in both my personal walk with the Lord and my desire to serve in my local church! I am very grateful for the opportunity to be a recipient of the new Sponsorship of Servants program, and that the Lord opened the door for me to participate in handing out scripture. Witnessing God working firsthand--whether it was Him protecting boxes from the rain or giving me more strength than I thought I had or seeing souls saved--was truly amazing!"

You do not have to fully sponsor someone's trip (although we certainly welcome that sacrificial of a donation). Any amount received will be applied to a properly vetted, yet needy applicant. I often meet people as we travel who are unable to go with us on our campaigns because of physical limitations but ask what they can do to help others. This fund is a perfect way to send someone who has the ability and the desire but needs some help with the finances. You could make a difference in the life of a young man like Alistair. I worked with him daily in Puerto Rico and loved watching his zeal distributing the word of God and helping wherever he was needed. Alistair was our song leader for the week even though he hadn't "filled those shoes" before! I hope that I get the opportunity to serve with him again on the foreign field. I'm so thankful for the Sponsorship for Servants program and those that faithfully gave so that Alistair financially could go. Only eternity will tell the difference this trip truly made in his life. Would you prayerfully consider lending help to the next generation if it is within your power to do so? Please visit couriersforchrist.com and scroll to the bottom of the home page for more information.

From top right: Alistair with Josh

Alistair Jossund and Ken Stertz loading boxes of John and Romans into the van for distribution
Alistair was our song leader for the week



“...Suffer little children to come unto me...”



By Joshua Stertz

I stared at the concrete block building with rusty tin roof and a blanket for a door thinking to myself, “Is this really a house?” Yet in a moment, this wonderful little boy came running out dressed the nicest that he possibly could to come with the rest of the kids that were already loaded in our van on their way to Youth Conference. These children have very little by the way of creature comforts--especially by our standards. My thoughts have been jarred by the reality of the general conditions of the society here in the Dominican Republic multiple times in the last several days. One of the teenage believers here told me that it is uncommon to hear “I love you” from a parent or loved one. She stated that there is an absence of genuine love shown to others in the

culture here. We know that these folks need to experience the love of the Lord Jesus Christ in their lives, and that will enable them to really show love to others. Society’s real problems aren’t typically solved by social reform; they are solved by changed lives through the gospel of Jesus Christ. **“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”**

- II Corinthians 5:17 -

As I sit typing this on the front veranda of the villa that we rented for Trip Two of EPIC 2025 and listen to the motorcycles, trucks, horses, and cars clamber by on the busy road, my heart is full. The week is not complete, and yet we have shared the gospel with many young folks in the past several days. We

have a team of 21 Americans from four different states serving here in El Limon, Dominican Republic, for eight days alongside Pastor Carlos and Mrs. Sara Mora. Pastor Carlos is fruit that abounds from an American missionary who reached him years ago when he was a child in Santo Domingo. He was trained in the local church there, responded to the call to ministry, and is planting a church in this centrally located city of the Samana Peninsula. Carlos has a heart to reach youth, as they are basically looked at as a nuisance within the culture. He knows the difference that the gospel made in his life and wants to see that change in theirs too.

Tonight (as of this writing) we are hosting the third and final night

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Above: Full house--praise the Lord!

Left: The kids on their way to conference...bus route doubled by the end!

Below left to right: Registration time; Pastor Harrison and friend; Physically injured boy reading the words of eternal life



STAFF NEWS

Ken Stertz Family Update

by Tricia Stertz

We've been told that it's been quite a while since we've given a family update. Our pastor always says that life is like a roll of toilet paper--the closer you get to the end the faster it goes, and that sure seems to be true! This year started out on the go in mid-January with taking a team for the Puerto Rican evangelistic outreach (in cooperation with our church's combined EPIC endeavor, Evangelizing People in the Caribbean). It was a bit out of our usual geography, but it was a blessing to see the enthusiasm of the local pastor in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, and his people and those who came along to help. The Puerto Rican people were very open to receiving the gospels of John and Romans, an attitude we are sadly seeing wane in European countries.

We weren't home long before we flew to a three-week series of meetings in February, were home a week and a half, and are now (early March) on our way to another set of meetings and a missions conference in the Northwest.

This will be our forty-first year serving with the Couriers for Christ ministry, and we are so thankful for God's provision, grace, protection, and blessing along the way. We are thankful for the wonderful co-workers that we have served with since the early days, and the younger couples that have joined over the last few years. The Lord continues to bless us with good health, and we try not to take it for granted, knowing that even though we still have some tread on our tires, each day is a gift. It has also been a joy not only to serve in the evangelistic outreaches and scripture campaigns, but also to strive to be a blessing to the churches and pastors we are with as we travel here in the states.

Our four children are doing well, all in that busy time of life with jobs and their children and the busyness that comes with middle age. We don't see them as often as we would love to, and those grandkids are growing up too fast! Two of them will be high school seniors next year, and our beautiful great-grandson has already turned two!

Ken's parents passed on to be with the Lord many years ago; I (Tricia) am still in the "sandwich" generation of trying to keep tabs on the kids and grandkids and as much as possible being there as a companion and help to my 92-year-old mom. I'm thankful she is still in my life, and she is sharp as a tack but facing more and more health challenges as she gets older.

I would really appreciate prayer for wisdom, discretion, and energy to meet the needs of those entrusted to my care.

We are continually humbled and grateful for our supporting churches; our missionary colleagues, who are dear to our heart; so many dear friends we have made through the years who are as close as family; and for loved ones who tolerate our frequent absences from home. Thanks to you all, and God's great blessings!!

Ken and Tricia



Ken teaching Sunday School in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico



Ken and Tricia being honored at the CFC annual banquet for 40 plus years of ministry



Our adorable great-grandson



Tricia's beautiful mom

“...Suffer little children to come unto me...”

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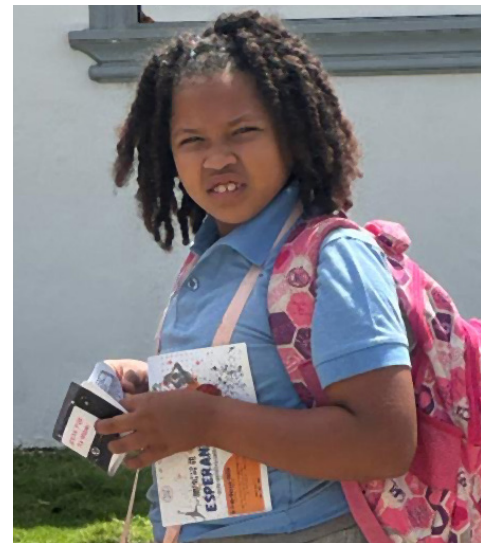
of the evangelistic youth services that we are having here. The first night God blessed with 57 youth in attendance with over 30 visitors. The games were fun, the singing was exciting, and the preaching was Spirit-filled and life-changing. On night number two there were fewer kids in attendance at the start, and I was disappointed. However, during the game time and the preaching, kids kept showing up. The night ended with nearly 100 children and teenagers in attendance with many of them being visitors! By the time you read this letter, this trip will be over and the results in God's hands. It is

hard to describe what it is like to see all these kids listening intently to God's word being preached and hearing that Jesus died for them.

Although we have freely shared the gospel with any age group that will receive it, the focus of this outreach has been unashamedly the youth. I am so thankful that Jesus Christ is concerned about the young as well as the old!

“But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.”

- Luke 18:16 -



One of the young people with invitation to the conference and gospel tract

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