## **Team Opportunities**

If you are interested in bringing a team to serve with CDEM, contact Karla Cachiaras at kcachiaras@aol.com or 410-877-8165.

#### Praise God for:

- His faithfulness
- Work team from Maryland and Iowa
- Successful sports clinics and VBS
- Church building roof is on

#### Please pray for:

- Safety in travel for the Rivas family
- Growth of the Monte Cristi and Madre churches
- Team of Dominican workers while Alberto is gone
- Good health (Abigail is experiencing seizures again; both Abigail and Jonathan will get heart checkups while in the States)

Christian Dominican Evangelistic Mission Juan A. Rivas Agape Flights - SGO 13908 100 Airport Ave - Venice, FL 34285 (809)579-3944

Valarie Peterson - Forwarding Agent 502 Pleasantview Rd - Marshalltown, IA 50158 (641)352-5024 - Vspiowa@aol.com

Checks for the mission can be made out to Cedar Falls Church of Christ and mailed to: 2727 West Fourth Street, Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Christian Dominican Evangelistic Mission Alberto Rivas Valarie Peterson



# Rivas Review



**Sharing Christ** in the **Dominican Republic** 

August 2007

"Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol Him, all you peoples. For great is His love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!" ~ Psalm 117

We praise God for all He continues to do through CDEM. God has faithfully provided willing servants that daily reach out to the many Dominicans and Haitians of the Monte Cristi area. He has blessed us with many hardworking work teams that have accomplished much and have been an incredible encouragement to the Dominican workers. And He has given us you, a group of faithful supporters that have made all of this ministry possible through your generosity and sacrifice. Thank you!

#### Visit to the States

We are looking forward to having Alberto, Abigail and Jonathan here in the States for a visit in August and September. They will be traveling a lot with visits scheduled in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and Tennessee. To find out the exact dates that they will be in each area, call Helen Lund (Grandma) at 319-989-2556 or email her at <a href="mailto:glllund@aol.com">glllund@aol.com</a>.



### The Roof is On

At last, the roof is on the church building in Monte Cristi! Thank you to everyone who donated to this project. What a blessing it will be to the church there in Monte Cristi!



## **Ministry Leader Highlight**

In 2001, the mission van began picking up children from the baseball field neighborhood each week for church services. There were three children from one family that came regularly, but the parents never attended. But one Sunday in 2002, the husband told the van driver to wait. Jorge and his wife, Ilsa,

would come along as well. They were the first family to attend from the baseball field area. When they first started attending, Ilsa was a Mormon. Jorge



was drinking a lot, and they had a lot of marriage problems. But as they attended, things began to change. They both became Christians. Jorge stopped drinking and became a faithful husband and devoted father. Now they are both very involved with the mission work. Jorge is paid part-time to drive the van for all the services in Monte Cristi (Sunday and two mid-week studies). He also helps at the Madre church and even preaches once in a while. Ilsa teaches the kids at both Monte Cristi and Madre. Praise God for these faithful servants!

## **Work Team From Maryland & Iowa**

We had a team of 28 high school juniors and sponsors from Maryland plus two ladies from Iowa come help at the mission in July. They were great! In order to put in a septic system out by the baseball field, the team dug a trench about 1 foot wide, 18 inches deep and 550 feet long for the pipe and a 5' x 5' x 5' hole for a septic tank. This system will support the family house used by Arismendy's family, the school, the future church building, and any other buildings that will be built in the future. They also dug out the footers for the new school. In the afternoons they conducted a sports camp teaching baseball, kickball and soccer. They also had coloring and songs for the younger children. They held a VBS for about 60 children and two of the teens shared their testimonies at the Saturday evening teen service.

Here is what one of the sponsors wrote concerning the trip (his fourth to Monte Cristi): "Once again, I am amazed at how God has used this mission to strengthen believers in Monte Cristi but also to stretch, strengthen, and grow the people who go to give. Alberto continues to have such a strong vision for the church, school, and seminary. Although this was the biggest group yet and comprised mostly of 16-17 year olds, the impact of the trip was similar to what I have experienced and what others have shared. We go to give...and we get so much in return. I am anxious to see how this trip has permanently impacted the students and the effect it will have on their future plan in life. Some were already talking about being able to return. There is plenty more to be done. With God's grace, Alberto's vision, and willing hands to physically and financially support CDEM, there will be countless opportunities to serve in the future."

~Erik Lackey~