



PROJECT ChildHelp

August 2002

WHO WE ARE

Project ChildHelp, Inc. is a non-profit Christian organization under laws of the state of Florida. We are dedicated to reaching out to the forgotten children in the orphanages of the **Dominican Republic** by providing humanitarian relief and meeting their spiritual needs.

Why We Exist

Our purpose is to provide the resources to meet the needs of these children by providing humanitarian aid. Additionally, as a Christian-based organization, we will communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ to all children.

What We Do

We provide humanitarian relief to meet the most basic human needs (i.e., food, clothing, diapers, vitamins, medicine, immunizations, etc.). Through a cooperative effort with local churches and concerned local citizens in the Dominican Republic, we help establish an on-going support plan where local Christians are challenged to a deeper involvement. This aspect of the ministry is overseen by volunteers of APEN in the Dominican Republic (This organization is recognized in the United States as CEF-Child Evangelism Fellowship). **Project ChildHelp** assists these volunteers by inviting them to play an important role in bringing new life to their own forgotten children.

How We Do It

Through teams of committed Prayer Partners and individual Christian prayer warriors throughout the U.S. and the Dominican Republic, we intercede daily for the needs of the mission, personnel, volunteers and of course, the children. Additionally, we are assisted by the people whom God sends our way to support **Project ChildHelp**, not just financially, but also through their skills, talents and God-given gifts.

Miracles Happen

By O. Frank Valladares

Our July 20-27, 2002 mission trip was disappointing in that we learned, prior to our trip, that the Government of the Dominican Republic had decided that it was not going to grant the *Hotel Montaña* to PCH as the location of a Home/Hospital for special needs children. At the same time, we distinctly felt God's hand scrupulously working miracles and protecting us as soon as we landed in DR.

We learned through back channels that the Government was no longer interested in allowing PCH the use of the *Hotel Montaña* as a Home/Hospital for special needs children. Although we demanded that the denial be reduced to writing, they refused and told us that there were other "interests" involved, and that the government had other plans for it, although this seemed to be a big mystery because no one wanted to talk about it. To date, our letters of inquiry and e-mails have gone unanswered. It seems that the same government officials we met with back in March 2002, who were so gracious and gave us a warm welcome, will not even give us the



Boy smiles for the camera

time of day now. Although this hotel has been abandoned for almost five years, once someone shows concern over its use, people start to come out of the woodwork to make their claim. Be that as it may, we can think of no better us for this dilapidated and abandoned structure than to house and care for these special needs children who society has turned its back on. It is frustrating to realize that this government does not share the same passion that burns in our hearts for these children, but we are not discouraged. During our trip we visited the *Hotel Montaña* to pray over it and to claim it in the name of the Lord for these children. We

See next page for continuation to the story

may not know exactly what God has in store for the mission of PCH and these children, and it may not be the *Hotel Montaña*, but we do know that it is something great and He will let us know in due course.

One of the big miracles that God manifested to us on this trip was that He allowed us to bring in over 3,000 pounds of supplies, including diapers, vitamins, medicines, and clothing. We were able to clear customs in less than half an hour. The week before the trip Lourdes was frantically calling customs in DR as well as the *Despacho de Exoneración de Finanzas, Oficina de Poder Ejecutivo* (Office of Financial Disbursement, Office of Executive Power), and *Secretaría Ministro de Presidencia* (Counsel for the President), in an effort to get prior approval of our shipment. This prior approval was vital because the government had imposed an embargo on used clothing coming into the country two weeks prior to our trip, and we were bringing with us thousands of pieces of used donated clothing for our children and other needy children, not to mention medicines and medical supplies. It so happened that the week before our trip, former President Balaguer, a beloved Dominican leader in his 90's, had died and the whole government was at a standstill to mourn his death, and no government official could be reached by telephone or otherwise. We prayed long and hard over this quandary and made the decision that we were going to take a giant leap of faith and bring our supplies with us in defiance of the embargo and the lack of prior approval. God worked his miracle as soon as we got off the plane. The only question that the customs official asked us was, "How many boxes do have?" We told him we were bringing 52

boxes (these were extra large moving and storage boxes from U-Haul; 24"X18"X 24"; 6.1 cu. feet each), and he simply said, "Okay", let us through and we were on our way. Our attorney in DR confirmed to us that this was nothing short of a miracle because to bring in a shipment of that size into the country you need authorization from the executive branch of the government.

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Additionally, we were blessed by a couple from Miami that accompanied us on this trip (Ralph and Marta Martinez). They made a one-year commitment to sponsor an additional caregiver (US\$265.00 per month) to care for the children. We were able to hire Catalina, effective

July 23, 2002, and she will be working Sunday through Friday, 7:30 am. to 4:00 p.m. This means an extra set of hands to help bathe, feed, care for and love these children.

We met with our attorney in DR, who is also a member of our Board of Directors, and filed the necessary paperwork to incorporate PCH as a Dominican non-profit corporation, at a cost of US\$2,000. This process should be completed within two months and will go a long way to make it easier for us to acquire land in DR, deal with the government, and to bring medical equipment and supplies into the country.

Even though we did not received the news we expected regarding the *Hotel Montaña*, we are convinced more than ever that the work of PCH is God's work and He has a plan for us that will be revealed in His time, not ours. We are encouraged and excited about the possibilities that lie before us. ■

Please share this newsletter with a friend

If you think your friends and/or family would like to receive our newsletter, please return the following portion to us.

Thank you for helping us spread the news about these children and their needs.

PROJECT ChildHelp

66 West Flagler Street, 2nd Fl. • Miami, FL 33130
Tel: (305) 271-0467 • email: projchild@aol.com



Yes, I would like to receive the newsletter from **Project ChildHelp**.
Please add my name to your mailing list.

Name _____

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e-mail address: projchild@aol.com

The Other Side of the Coin

By Ralph Martinez

I was born in the Dominican Republic and moved to the United States 25 years ago. Since then I have made numerous trips back to DR to visit family and friends. I have enjoyed wonderful times vacationing on the beautiful mountains and beaches of my homeland, but I was never much concerned about the condition of the children of my country, even though I knew poverty was widespread and conditions were bad. This past July my wife and I went on a mission trip to DR with Project ChildHelp, and we got to experience the other side of the coin.

I learned about PCH in January of this year when I heard Frank Valladares make a presentation at I church I was visiting. He spoke about the mission of PCH and showed us pictures from an orphanage in DR. My wife and I could not believe the great need and suffering that existed there. The pictures made us cry and impacted our lives. Frank spoke about the need for the people of God to support the work of PCH in DR and how to help these little ones. These children who have absolutely nothing need medicine, food, clothing, diapers, financial assistance, love, and of course lots and lots of prayer. Why, you might ask, do they need so much prayer? Simply stated, the children PCH cares for are "special needs" children, and over there they are the outcasts of society. These picture we saw got a grip on my heart, not just because of the children's mental and physical condition, but because these children were from the place where I was born. I never thought in my wildest imagination that places like that existed in my country. From that day forward, my wife and I started praying for the work of PCH, for the children they care for, and for our own lives that God would show us what we could do to help carry this load.

We started communicating with Frank and Lourdes Valladares by

e-mail and an occasional telephone call about the work of PCH in the DR and how we could help. We decided to join them on their July 20-27, 2002 mission trip, but I had problems with an expired passport. God's timing however, is flawless. Three days before the trip my passport came in, two days before we reserved our seats, and on Saturday, July 20, 2002 we met Frank and Lourdes face to face for the first time, curbside at Miami International Airport together with the 52 boxes of humanitarian supplies that they were bringing along. When we met it felt like we had known each other for years.

We had a very pleasant flight to DR and when we got off the plane we huddled before heading to customs

boxes and no one questioned us.

The following morning we went to visit the orphanage and we received a shock. We wondered how those poor, poor children could even survive in those condition; a combination of filth, starvation and awful smells. The thought came to mind, why am I here? Then, I felt the Lord say to me; "If just a cup of water you give in my name to any of these little ones you have done it unto me." I thanked Him for his kindness and faithfulness, and then I asked Him to help me do my best while I was there.

The week we were there we were very busy and we even had the privilege of visiting the Presidential Palace in Santo Domingo, where we met with an assistant to the President who was in charge of Religious Affairs. Before we knew it, it was time to come back. The Lord is good. I am so glad to be part of



Child receiving nebulizer treatment

to pray. We prayed for God's absolute will to be done, for doors to open where they should be opened and closed where they should be closed. God certainly opened doors for us in a marvelous way when we got to customs. We went right through and didn't have to open a single box. We were amazed because God had performed a miracle right before our eyes. It was comical as we stood there with a mountain of battered

the family of God, and to take part in His work. Do pray for PCH. They have a big task in front of them. They have a big burden; let's help them carry the load. Remember that when we pass from this old world we are not taking anything with us; it's what's done for Christ here that will count for eternity.

Ralph & Marta Martinez
(RalphSigns305@aol.com)

How Can You Help?

By Lourdes Valladares

So many times I have heard people say "How can I make a difference? With so much hunger and disease in this world, what possible good can my financial contribution, large or small, make to help improve the life of a child?" My friend, let me tell you about a place where, not only will what you give go directly to the help the neediest of children, but you are welcome to see for yourself by joining us in a future trip to the Dominican Republic to visit with these special children.

Three years ago, children like Wendy, Dominguito, Capuchino, Diana and over 70 other children were laying unbathed for days, many laying in their own excrement, waiting for others to decide if today was their turn to eat. These are children who are the outcasts of this society simply because they were born with neurological and physical impediments. Three years ago, conditions were such that hours would turn into days as they waited for a human contact or the opportunity to look into a person's eyes. Today, thanks to many of you who are systematically giving, these children have Lucas, Germania, Juana, Isabel, Catalina and Xiomara. These caregivers that your gifts are supporting every month so that these very special children receive a daily bath, are fed, and receive the only love that they have ever known. But our caregivers cannot effectively care for all the children. There are still children, specially the teenage girls, whose care (if I can call it that) still falls under the auspices of the owner of this institution and these girls are in

desperate need of caring people to do for them what the younger children are receiving.

They are just as helpless as the little ones because they, too suffer from neurological and physical disorders that prevent them from caring for themselves in even the most basic way. They also need to be bathed, clothed, and fed. They need to be cared by persons who *want* to be there, and not for any other reason. Then there are the evenings and long nights where these children, all 75 of them, have *only one person* caring for them. There is no such thing as a meal, not even a snack, after 4:00 pm when our staff leaves until the next morning when our staff comes in to work. (They work from 7:30-4:00, 6 days a week).

We have an **immediate** need for three additional caregivers; two for the evening/night shift, and one for the daytime with

the older girls. Please help us meet this most basic need. It's more than just a goal. It's about survival. It's about life and death. It's about something as basic as having a glass of water when one is thirsty. It's about having someone be aware that you have a high fever and need to receive medical care. A salary of approx. US \$265.00 per month will pay for one caregiver. It's very possible that you are reading this and thinking that this amount that you can commit to for one year. Any amount that you contribute can go towards the purchase of much needed diapers, milk, vitamins, medicines and food. We would also welcome a one time gift toward the purchase of land and property to give these children the home they need and deserve in order to live with dignity (your gifts are tax-deductible). There are so many ways that you can help. Please prayerfully consider how you can help these special children today. ■

Making A Difference: There Are Various Ways In Which You Can Help

- Yes. I would like to be a monthly donor for the hiring of caregivers. Enclosed is my first monthly gift of \$____. Please send me a "reminder kit"
- Yes. I would like to become a prayer warrior. Please provide me with a list of your prayer needs
- Yes. I would like to donate items
- Yes. I would like more information and possibly join **ChildHelp** in the next Missions Team
- Yes. I wish to volunteer my time for fundraising events

- Yes. I would like to donate money for the purchase of urgently needed items, including food, medicines and vitamins
Enclosed is my gift of \$____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel: _____ E-mail Address: _____

(Optional)

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Miami, FL 33130

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