



THE *Schepers* FAMILY

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC www.schepersfamily.net

Stewart - Donna - Delayna - Julianna - Seth - Jesse

Thursday, August 19, 2010

Greetings Pastors, Partners and Prayer Warriors,

Someone has said

“Away in foreign lands they wondered how their simple word had power,
At home, the Christians “two and three” had met to pray an hour”

We thank you all, for your prayers, especially concerning our youngest son Jesse. For almost two years he was sick with diarrhea and physically not growing. Well, we finally have a diagnosis. For more on that subject I will include a paragraph that my wife has written, at the end of the letter. She has been dealing with the doctors and pediatricians.

We praise the Lord for a **fruitful summer**, thus far. We took a group of teenagers to camp where we combined with another Missionary here in the country. It was a blessing, and exciting. The preaching had an impact, topics that were hard hitting and relevant for teens. We saw one of our young men get saved there at Camp. We arrived home from camp and before we could baptize him, he and his family had moved away, out into the “Campo” (the countryside). I continue to pray for Diego. We had another young man, who had only been coming to church for a week or so, but at a youth conference we went to, he walked an aisle to trust Christ, his name is Georgi.

I Took a group of men and teens camping in the mountains, our first “**Men’s Retreat**”. It was the first time for all of them. It was a lot of fun, gorgeous waterfalls, tubing in a river, it was all fun except for the unexpected visitors. One was a very large spider, and the other was some “clown” who wandered up to our tent late at night and had the nerve to open the zippers to our tent. Fortunately some of our gang were still awake and scared him off. I’m curious to know what his intentions were or was he simply curious to see the inside of our tent. If I had my paintball gun, I might have had a more exciting ending to this story, but I didn’t, so that’s it for that.

I’m not sure if it was a result of Camp and Conference and decisions to “**get serious about serving Christ**” but we are grateful to have had more teens coming out for our teen soul winning. On average we are now having around 6 - 8 teens out soul winning on a regular basis, for which we are excited. They have seen

fruit for their labors which is exciting for them. Youth have way of bringing a unique enthusiasm to our ministries.

During our **soul winning efforts** this month we saw 3 saved and saw 8 first time visitors attend our morning services. Thank the Lord for the visitors because our members and regular attenders have been experiencing a summer slump. We have only been averaging around 70 for the summer. We have some exciting things planned for the fall, some special days, attendance campaigns etc.



SENDING CHURCH

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Our weekly **bible club** is about to get started again. We thank the Lord for some of our members who have stepped up and taken over many areas of our bible club. This allows us to use that time for a different ministry. It is exciting to see growth like that, timid people now teaching sunday school, Young but growing christians taking over children's church, it helps alleviate the pain of the "summer slump"

We have started a new bible study in an area north of where we are. One of our members moved there and found it to far to come to church. One of our men, Samuel is leading this Bible study on Sunday afternoons. He has been having around 15 adults and some children. This new work is in need of a building to meet in, some chairs and hymn books. Pray for Samuel and this new work. We are looking forward to the day when he holds the first official service of this new work.

For prayer requests and needs of our ministry, please go to www.schepersfamily.info and see our page marked Prayer Page. There we have a list of prayer requests and needs that we have for our ministry.

At this time, I'm going to let my wife give you some of details of what we have been going through with Jesse. The following is a paragraph from my wife...

"For about 2 years Jesse (our 3 year old son) has been having diarrhea and has not been growing. When I took him to the doctor for an ear infection, in December, our Pediatrician saw right away that he had malabsorption. After about 6 months of testing and seeing a specialist here in the DR, they were not able to find his problem. Our pediatrician recommended that we take Jesse to the US. The Lord worked it out, we immediately had an appointment with a GI specialist. We sent all of Jesse's previous test results ahead to the Specialist and started answering questions for the nurse there. Then on June 30th I took Jesse to the States. The specialist, who had already reviewed Jesse's case, scheduled an endoscopy and a colonoscopy. When he was done with the procedure he said everything looked fine, except for a red spot on Jesse's stomach, and we would have to wait for the biopsy results to know anything. I was called the next week, to come into the office to talk about the biopsy results. They had found something. It appeared that he had Crohn's. The Doctor talked with me, did a blood test and released me to return to the Dominican Republic. He said that he could manage Jesse's care from there with the help of our Pediatrician. We were thrilled that I only had to spend less than 3 weeks in the States to get a diagnosis. I received a call from the nurse last week who told me that the blood test confirmed Crohn's. She also took the time to explain some things to me. It was very overwhelming to hear all that she had to tell me. It's more than just, he's sick and has to take medicine. He has something that, unless God intervenes, will last for life. Praise the Lord, it shouldn't kill him, just make life a little more difficult. I know it could be worse, and I am thankful that it's not. He is taking the mildest medicine right now, but we are not sure that it is working. The other medicines that they use to treat it are Steroids and immune suppressing drugs. If he is put on an immune suppressing drug, we will have to be careful of viruses, because they will be hard for his body to fight off. Anytime he gets sick I will have to take him to the doctor immediately, rather than waiting to see if he gets better. Anytime he starts having diarrhea for more than 24 hours he will have to have more tests to see if it is an amoeba, parasite or his Crohn's. Then that may result in changing his medicine again. He has routine visit's to his pediatrician every 3 months to monitor his weight and symptoms. I'm not fearful of the future and I am not complaining, I just wanted to share with you what it will be like to control this. Now I know this won't mean as much to anyone who hasn't ever been to a third world country, but everything we do here takes at least twice as long and is just not as easy as in the States. A doctor's visit takes almost a full day. Tests, blood or other, take half a day if everything goes as it should. There will be medications that we can't get here, so they have to shipped in, which means being prepared and planning ahead. I am so thankful that we know what he has and can treat it. Thank you so much to everyone who has prayed, sent encouraging emails, phone calls and the special offerings. Ya'll made those frustrating months easier to bear. If you have any questions, information or advice, feel free to email me at anativetexan@hotmail.com" -

Donna Schepers