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Trumpet of the Lord Ministries

*Set the trumpet to thy mouth. Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet,
and show my people their transgression... Hosea 8:1, Isaiah 58:1*

"Venezuela, Brazil and the Ivory Coast

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation..." Isaiah 52:7

Good tidings, good news, and good things are the proclamations of Isaiah. This verse is very descriptive of those who proclaim the Gospel, as it says "upon the mountains." How fitting a description when I think about Merida, Venezuela and San Paulo, Brazil. Merida, Venezuela is very mountainous. We climbed step after step up the mountains to the houses which were over eleven to fourteen thousand feet up in elevation.

The San Paulo, Brazil trip was a special mission project and eye glass clinic. I was invited to take part of the team with Tim and Lisa Johnson of the Fishing for H.O.P.E. Ministries out of Dallas, Georgia. H.O.P.E. is an acrostic form for **H**elping **O**thers **P**repare for **E**ternity. Heading up the eye glass clinic was Andy Boyd who performed the examinations of those in need for reading glasses. Also helping with visitation was a husband and wife team, Kyle and Jenna Mayo. All six of us were from Georgia.

Over eight hundred people participated in the eye glass clinic. All of them were given the Gospel at the end of their examination. After the clinic many follow-up visits were made and over 200 indicated that they accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

Brazil has become one of my favorite places to minister because of their friendliness and openness to the Gospel. Though many of the people are Catholic and profess to be Christians, they do not have a personal relationship with the Lord. Many of the communities that we worked in were controlled by drug-lords which meant that we had to obtain permission from them to share the Gospel. Pastor Giovanni shared with us that the drug-lords stated that "we will not sell drugs in the community as long as the Americans are here."

My oldest sister Gail, a friend Raymond Minks and my son Kenan were also participants on the trip to Merida, Venezuela. This was Gail and Raymond's second mission trip and Kenan's first. Both Gail and Raymond had the opportunity to share the Gospel at the local university with students and professors, in the market places and in many homes. God had blessed Gail in the use of sign language and she had many opportunities to

witness to the deaf. This was one of the big highlights for her to be able to sign the Gospel for the deaf and encourage them in Christ. Raymond enjoyed debating with the highly educated who held to the claims of evolution.

KENAN'S EXPERIENCE:

My experience in Venezuela was very eye opening to how different things are than in America. We flew from Atlanta to Miami and had an overnight stay. Things were interesting in Miami because some of the people I came into contact with did not speak much English, but spoke Spanish. The next day we left Miami and flew to Curacao. We met most of our team members in this airport, where we had a team meeting and ate lunch.

During the two hour wait, we met a family of about 12 in the airport terminal who would be traveling to the same city. The father and one of his daughters knew a little English. We had a lot of fun trying to communicate with them, with us speaking what little Spanish we could, them correcting us, and trying to speak what little English they could. I realized then I was going to enjoy this trip as a whole. We flew out of Curacao to Barquisimeto where we were to stay in a hotel and drive the next day, supposedly 5 hours, to a church somewhere near Merida.

Now thinking back to that bus ride I feel God was trying to teach me to be patient. We arrived 10 hours later to the city due to many accidents as we traveled around the mountains. Needless to say things did not start off as planned. We split up with our pastors and went to a hotel. The next day, a Sunday, we had our first service with our church. It was an awesome experience. The guitarist, Eduardo, and his band performed one of the best worship experiences I have ever had.

Throughout the week I was with the youth nationals performing skits. On one evening we performed a skit and we were able to lead a father to the Lord. On another occasion we preformed, we had a group of kids surround us as we presented the Gospel. It was times like these that I was thankful that God had given me the opportunity to minister in Venezuela.



Left: Kenan speaking with some of the children in the family of 12

Right: Kenan with some of the youth nationals



Overall on this trip to Venezuela we had 1,049 men, women, and young people indicate they trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

On my next mission trip I traveled west to Ivory Coast, Africa, to the city of Abidjan.

In 2010 and 2011, I was scheduled to go to the Ivory Coast but because of violence and a bloody election in the country we were not permitted to enter. This time we got a green light to GO!! I flew from Atlanta to Washington D.C. only to run into a storm. Stu Tully and I were delayed an hour and a half sitting in the plane on the run way. Another part of our team coming out of Texas was delayed because of the weather. "But God worked mightily through weather delays, sickness and other stumbling blocks to produce a great harvest," spoken by Brother Keith McWhorter, Project Coordinator.

This project included 22 Americans. There were seven first time participants and 32 national missionaries from Ghana, Benin, Nigeria and other regions of the Ivory Coast who joined us. It was good to see some old friends and serve with them once again. Many of these missionaries we mentored in previous evangelistic projects within their countries.

We were blessed to work with 22 Baptist churches in Abidjan. We shared the Gospel in a number of venues to include a school where 600 prayed and indicated they trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, in a federal prison, shops, market places, churches and scheduled visits in homes. We were able to distribute 620 New Testaments, 86 Bibles and 1,200 booklets of the Gospel of John and Romans, and 210 discipleship lesson booklets were given to churches for follow-up.

The results: 4,519 men, women, young boys and girls indicated that they trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Other decisions included 211 rededications, 2 baptisms and 12 who came forward to express a special calling on their life. We trained 120 nationals in evangelism with the EvangeCube and distributed 202 cubes to them.

This was one of the most exciting and anticipated mission projects because it was deferred twice due to serious political unrest. The Ivorian churches had been praying for the project for over three years. We had many obstacles to overcome: two years of political unrest, severe illness, weather delays, transportation problems. Well Glory!!! Absolute Victory!!

"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savor of his knowledge by us in every place." 2 Corinthians 2:14



Left: Julius with
Andy, Jenna,
Kyle, Lisa and
Tim in San
Paulo, Brazil
Right:
Julius with the
church members
of Shalom
Baptist Church in
the Ivory Coast



**Special Prayer Request: Please pray for my mission
project to Macedonia
October 24- November 4, 2013**



Julius and Kenan in front of the hotel in Merida,
Venezuela. Pictured with Darwin, Daniel and his
wife, Pastor Scarley and his wife and daughter.

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