



Blessed are the feet of those  
who bring good news. - Romans 10:15

**We exist to disciple the nations in their own culture by teaching, preaching and healing.**

## **Mission News From Panama**

Our first native Panama trip was a great success. It changed lives and opened more doors for growth in the kingdom of God. The team consisted of Pastor Roosevelt, his wife Ines, Maxi Perez (Max's brother) and Pastor Lazaro from the Akwa Yala village. (Akwa Yala is a village about 2 hours from the city. This village is basically the central point of many of the villages in the Bayano area.)

The team left on Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. They were delayed in the Akwa Yala village due to heavy rains and could not begin their travel on the river until that night. They traveled as far as Tibardi, another village. They spent the night in Tibardi and continued traveling to Diwar Sikwa the next morning. The trip was an amazing experience for everyone involved, as you can see from the testimonies below. Through these testimonies we have seen that our purpose in training and sending the natives to minister to their own people can open doors and change lives in such a deeper way than we could ever imagine. Please pray about becoming involved in sending these precious believers to serve their own people. This trip could not have happened without your prayers and support. We would like to thank you for your participation in eight more Kuna's accepting Christ.

It is easy for us to become overwhelmed by the tremendous needs in these villages. There are so many things that need attention. Please continue to pray for this village as we prepare to visit in December.

## **Ministry Needs:**

- Puppets – Puppets are an amazing way to reach kids. We borrowed the puppets we used on our last trip and we need our own to leave with the team in Panama.
- Laptop- We need this for when we travel to churches to share about our journeys.
- Bibles – We need your support to buy Kuna bibles which can only be purchased in Panama.
- Financing for Kuna Missionaries – We have discovered from this last trip that the cost is close to \$500 to send a team once a month.
- Soul Seekers Ministry – We also need your support in funding the work God is doing through this ministry in Panama. We need monthly support or one time supporters to take the message of Christ to Panama.

**If you would like to help with any of these items please see the contact information at the bottom.**

# Testimonies from Panama Team



**Panama Mission Team**



**Transportation to village**

## **Pastor Roosevelt's Testimony**

When I traveled to the Diwar Sikua community, I had no idea how the village would be and how difficult the trip would be to get there. I give thanks to God for giving me this beautiful opportunity.

On October the 12, Friday at 6:00 pm, I met with twelve chiefs from the village, to inform them about my visit to the community. After visiting with them for a while, one of them responded by saying that they would like to donate land for the Baptist Mission. It caught my attention, because I did not request any land, but had simply asked for somewhere to preach. At this moment I felt the presence of God working in the meeting with the chiefs. After the meeting around 8:00 pm, we began the worship service.

All the chiefs came, who are experts and deeply knowledgeable in the Kuna traditions. This is the first time I have ever noticed this type of assistance in my pastoral experience that the important chiefs have come to the services. The Holy Spirit revealed to me that I should change the message. The biblical text was John 3:1-15. It was about Nicodemus, an important man among the Jews but without God. The Holy Spirit was at work that night. Eight people received Christ. My brothers and sisters in Christ, please pray for this community as God continues to open the hearts of everyone there.

- Your brother in Christ. Pastor Roosevelt Arias



**Pastor Roosevelt and wife Ines**

## **Ines Roosevelt's Testimony**

It was a privilege to have gone to the community of Diwar Sikua. I did not have any idea where the village was located when we began our journey. I prayed to God for guidance for our trip to have purpose. We left Akua Yala at 6:00 pm. It was night time and I remembered Isaiah 6:8 "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us and I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Thank you brothers and sisters that through you I was an instrument to go to this village to fellowship and to share the beauty and marvelous love of Jesus Christ.

Something happened on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> that filled me of joy. We planned a service for that night. We went to the congress, which is a large hut where the chiefs and the villagers meet about the community matters. We were surprised that the Speaker of the House from the community informed us that they did not have kerosene. A little girl came close to me and said, "Sister now that we do not have kerosene we will not sing and praise God." At that moment I could not answer her, so I asked God for direction to send us an answer. Minutes passed before a man came and brought kerosene. When the light was turned on the little girl applauded with happiness and said "Now we can sing and praise God till dawn." It was amazing to see the chiefs, men, women, and kids in the service.

We gave toys and made crafts with the kids. A young lady volunteered to help me cook. So, I took this opportunity to share the gospel with her. She knew a little of the life of Jesus. At her house (hut) she had flowers. I asked her who planted these flowers and she told me that her mom explained to her how flowers grow and that they liked the smell and colors. I shared that this was the same for the life of a believer. Little by little we grow. God bless you for this opportunity to share Christ in this village.

- Your sister in Christ, Ines de Arias



**Ines, with helper, Cooking**

## Maxi Perez's Testimony

A few days before we left, I thought about how it is going to be to go to Diwar Sikwa. I was accustomed only to going to Akwa Yala. I thought back to when I registered myself in a student walkers club in junior high where we walked several hours to get to the nearest town.

The day had come to go to Diwar Sikwa; it was not the same as going exploring; now we would be taking the Word of God. In this place I felt closer to God. There was silence and you could see stars closer. Unlike the city with racket, screaming, and traffic, I was able to reflect on God more. What a difference! But we know that God is always where we are.

I pray to God for all the needs I saw in Diwar Sikwa, for the children, men, women and especially the girls from ages 11-13. They are having babies and some of them are dying. There are so many needs that only God can provide, we are only instruments. May God Bless the people of Diwar Sikwa.

- Maximiliano Perez Jr.



**Playing with kids**

**If you would like to make a contribution to SSM please contact us:**

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