

## SENIOR LOVE - (Amor ancianos)

Ten senior citizens (actually nine, plus one honorary one) gathered to make up The Grace Team in Cali, Colombia May 6 -16, 2009. Our goal: to share our love (1John 3:16) and faith (James 2:18) in Jesus Christ with our South American brothers and sisters. This involved a work project at Hogar Samaria (geriatrics), home for the aging.

We took a pile of raw lumber, mostly 2X10's (metric) and 1/8" plywood and turned it into door and window frames, doors and trim. Lots of cutting, shaping and sanding - then painting/staining and installing. After many aches and pains in our bodies we finished 33 doors, frames, and countless feet of trim - you just can't go to the local building supply and buy trim or doors, it is VERY expensive. We worked alongside several S.A. brothers and sisters, bridging the language barrier with lots of smiles and laughs.

Each working day we ate two meals on site, cooked and served by Luci'a, with help from various volunteers, both N.A. and S.A. Each day after lunch, we had a devotional given by different ones of The Grace Team. Just as important, or more importantly, we prayed and maintained a list of people to pray for/with. The Lord rewarded our efforts with answers to several requests. One in particular: Franci, daughter of my host family had a brain operation to remove two tumors on Tuesday, the 12th. This was done by a team of five doctors on an outpatient basis. Yes, she was home at her parents house that very afternoon, only hours after her surgery. We truly serve an Awesome God!

Thursday evening we had a great time of prayer and fellowship at the home of Boyce and Beth Wallace, with our host families also attending. Guirremo led the singing and Jairo shared the needs of Hogar Samaria.

Friday morning we visited the *ancianato*. Several of The Grace Team brought gifts for the residents. We had prayer and visitation. Once again, lots of smiles and laughs were exchanged. This was especially important to Rebekah and I since for the past two years we have been active in the exchange of prayers to and from Hogar Samaria and Sunrise Manor (daycare) in Hodgenville KY. (Isn't it wonderful when God's people get involved with one another?)

Members of The Grace Team: Sam Suddarth, (leader), and L.D. Bell, TN; Alva Ray Marty and Ollie McClung, AL; Sid Swindle, FL; Cheryl Bingemer, IN; Rich Shugert, IL; Allen Hom, CA; and Rebekah and Obadiah Okeson, KY. - Our S.A. members were Boyce and Beth Wallace, missionaries for 44 yrs. to Colombia; Victor; Oscar; Christina; Vickie; Lazao and daughters, Paola y Claudia; Rosa; Lucia (our cook); Carmen; Juan Sebastian; Evelin; y Alcides. *Muchas gracias* for all your hard work. A special thanks to Pablo y Carmen Rodriguez; who opened their home to us for a welcome respite on Thursday. More special thanks to ALL of the host families who made each of us feel welcomed and loved! *Mil gracias!!!*

You readers may get involved in three ways. Hogar Samaria still needs financial support. Contributions can be made to The Grace Team (address supplied upon request). You can be an active participant in future mission trips (contact Sam at [4him@thegraceteam.org](mailto:4him@thegraceteam.org)). You can PRAY!!!

In His love and service, Obadiah