



Michael, Elizabeth & Anita

Dohn Family

Annual Mission Report

SAMS Missionaries in Health Ministries

In the Dominican Republic



Annual Report for 2009

We are completing ten years in the Dominican Republic. We offer as our annual report for 2009 a short compendium of several things we have learned or concepts that have been reinforced over the years.

Quality is as important as quantity.

While it is gratifying to see growth (more communities with health promotion programs, more patients seen at the Clinic, more services added, etc.), it is mostly being able to do a good job in the ministry to which we have been called (and of course the personal relationships) that keep us going.

Everything looks easier than it is.

We launched our website a year ago (www.DohnFamily.org). During the **52 weeks** in 2009, we made only **28 postings** on the 'Picture of the Week' page. Not exactly weekly, huh? While taking some effort, the website has really been fairly easy to maintain.

We can be life-long learners.

We have certainly become more proficient and better at our activities here through a combination of continuing acculturation, new knowledge, and experience. Along the lines of "new knowledge," we both fulfilled qualifications last June for a Diploma degree in Public Health.

Life is more interesting if you have a short memory span.

We are surprised each time by the sheer volume of mud produced in the dirt streets here after a heavy rainfall.

God is in the whole mix.

Being involved almost exclusively with social ministry, we are sometimes asked what we are doing as far as spiritual ministry/care and evangelism. We have trouble answering those questions because it is all mixed together for us. For example, within the health ministry of the Episcopal Church here, we have seen people getting cured; people, families and communities getting healthier; people awakening their spiritual side, accepting Christ, and joining churches; people without hope or self-value finding it; Christians finding their vocation within the Church; Christians finding their vocation in the secular world; and people with political and religious differences finding common ground in ministry.

The Challenge Ahead in 2010

Our faithful mission supporters through the years have sustained us with prayer and contributions. However, our funding is less certain now than in the past. As new missionaries, our SAMS mission account received many contributions. However, over the years the support has tended to drop-off, even as we have become better and more effective missionaries. Something of a paradox (perhaps not surprising; after all, we are a 'pair-o-docs'). Seriously, our SAMS account will probably be sufficient to keep us in the field through 2010. We will need to find new or increased support if we are correct in the discernment that our mission is to continue here.

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SAMS Missionaries

Commissioned by the
Diocese of Southern Ohio

Working with
La Iglesia Episcopal
Dominicana