



# Dr. Anne Livingston

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*“All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD:  
and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.” (Psalm 22:27)*

After reading of the terrible sufferings of Messiah described in Psalm 22, I was reminded of the hope our Lord Himself gave that He would rise and then meet His disciples. The closing of the psalm gives hope and light to those of us at “the ends of the world” that we, too, can worship the Lord because of His sacrifice.

We sometimes get so occupied with our location in God’s work that other places become rather vague until we hear from people there or see for ourselves. For example, I have a better understanding of the needs and challenges of Tokyo, Japan, after spending time listening to a brother who was recently there for several weeks.

I went to Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, for the last half of March. Just because Haiti and Dominican share the island of Hispaniola doesn’t mean that they are the same. The differences started when I landed at a modern airport outside town, and continued as we drove to town on paved roads with working stop lights, lots of vehicles, and ready availability of fuel. I kept seeing storefronts and houses that reminded me of Haiti and reflected some sharing of culture. During my stay, we had 24/7 electricity, internet, water and sewage. There was ready access to grocery stores and shops. The power lines reminded me of Cap Haitien, Haiti, but these actually carried electricity full time. The driving was almost as crazy as in Haiti, but it was safe to be out on the roads, even for women driving alone.



And yet, people are people as my Haitian friends would say. People want to be valued, to be part of a safe community and to worship. About half of the people in Puerto Plata are Roman Catholic, many of them nominal. Most of the other half are in Pentecostal-based churches. The lure for many is what they can get, which may make them reluctant to go to churches that emphasize faith, godliness, obedience to God’s Word, and service rather than give-away stuff.



The team I visited learned this when they took over a ministry in Puerto Plata. Their original plan was to get established, and that included becoming comfortable in Dominican Spanish. Many of the team members have backgrounds in Brazil, and the language there is Portuguese. Their plan to divide into two teams and start another ministry in Santiago was put on hold while they worked to rebuild the Puerto Plata church with solid biblical teaching, especially concentrating on young people and young families. God has blessed, and the team is looking forward to starting the second ministry in the coming months.



Saturday afternoons and evenings are set aside for the young people. The program is based on one that a missionary family used in Brazil, and is similar to programs in the States. Game time was very innovative! And noisy! Many of the young adults help in that session with the kids, The children memorize scripture and have books to complete. The teens/young adults have their own session afterward with a more in-depth time of Bible study. The adults in the church take part, which is good preparation for the future when they will take over.

*Saturday clubs for kids and teens/young adults*

*“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8)*  
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*Young people's Sunday school*

The church family was warm and welcoming. I was grateful that many of the people spoke English since I can only speak a few words of Spanish. We shared meals, prayer requests, music and fellowship. There were even a few small jokes, a gentle evidence of belonging. One emphasis for the church members was memorizing Philippians 1. I cannot hear verse 18 quoted now without



*Sunday morning church*

hearing, “¿Qué pues?”. Because of my French and Haitian Creole background, I was able to follow the notes on the screen and parts of the preaching.

I was able to do some medical consultations. One lady had what sounded like an odd problem, a “hernia in the neck.” She said this while pointing to the front of her left neck. What she had was a herniated disc in her neck, and I think the doctor was trying to show one of the ways to approach the problem and fix it. We talked about the symptoms she was experiencing, and she understood that the procedure was necessary to resolve what was already going on and to prevent permanent damage. Two of the missionary ladies translated all of this. I received a message last week that Belkis had the surgery, was already doing better, and was in church on May 7.



There are many Haitians in the D.R., and it was my privilege to meet and talk to some of them. The mother of Eluna, one of the young ladies in the church, is from Haiti, and we had a good visit in Creole at her house. I had a pleasant visit with a Haitian-American lady who lives a few doors from where I stayed. The conversation shifted from English to Creole. She gave evidence that she is a believer, and she told me she is involved in a ministry to Haitians in the town. I took many Scripture booklets in Haitian Creole with me,

trusting that God will use those to draw people to Himself. I left a large package of booklets for her.



**Praise** I had a safe and, I trust, fruitful trip with no ankle problems.

**Prayer** I have scheduled a brief trip to Haiti in June. Please pray for God’s continued direction and that He will provide two men to go with me.

Missionary Flights continues to fly to Haiti. Please pray for their safety and God’s guidance as they serve ministries there. MFI also flies to Santiago, D.R., which is something to consider for the future.

*“A seed shall serve him...They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this.” (Psalm 22:30a, 31)* God has promised that all who put their faith in Jesus Christ are the children of God. That declaration has been made by generations of believers to those who came after them, and so the promise came to us. May we who have trusted in Jesus Christ be faithful to proclaim this good news to those around us, no matter where we meet them.

In our Lord’s service,

*Dr. Anne*

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