



The Willis Family

Missionaries to Panama

January 5, 2011

Dear Friends,

We truly wanted to send you a letter wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, but the month of December was a very busy and difficult month for us and the whole church and ministries here in David, Panama. We do hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year! May God bless you and use you greatly in 2011.

Anita Martinez (21 years old) was almost like a daughter to us. She would come by our house almost every day of the week. She would help our children with homework, work around the house and lately she was always working side by side with my wife in the Orphanage/Girl's Home. She would also teach a Bible lesson every day to over 40 children in a Feeding Center located in a neighborhood behind the Home. Anita was leaving the Home to be a part in the Bible College Graduation on Dec. 3, where she had just finished her second year, and went to cross the street to board a bus but was not fast enough and was struck by a SUV. She never again opened her eyes nor moved any part of her body other than her eyelids. After two weeks in a coma and on a respirator, she went to be with the Lord. I preached her funeral to over 500 people. This young lady had an impacting testimony. Over 10 pastors from other churches came to the funeral and shared testimonies of how Anita had touched their lives through her generosity and sweet attitude while they were teaching in our college. We sure do miss this young lady. Please pray for her mother as she goes on serving the Lord in spite of hearing the car hit her daughter and being one of the first ones there. Her mother's name is Ana Gonzalez. Pray for Anita's five sisters and three brothers that they would get saved and serve God.

One of the reasons I believe we had such a difficult month is because over 90 people (including Anita) promised on November 28, to win at least one soul to Christ every day during the month of December, as a gift to the Lord. The very day that Anita was hit by the SUV she had gone out early in the morning and won her soul to Christ for that day. She later called me and gave me that great news. Those were the last words I heard her speak to me. Our church went on to win over 1,831 people to the Lord during the month of December! We have never won that many people to the Lord in one month. I personally won over 50 people to the Lord! God is great! We saw over 6,500 saved in 2010, over 1,000 salvations in church and some 300 baptisms this year.

We graduated three from our college and we are excited about next year already. Some have even started sending scholarships in Anita's name to help other students come to get their Theology Education. We are inviting students to come from all over Latin America. Please pray we may be able to have many more students next year. Thanks for your part in all of this.

Our missionary to Colombia has quit his full time job and has hit the road to visit churches in Central America to raise support to go to Colombia. Please pray for, and support this family that want to go Colombia and get to work by December, 2011.

I thank my Pastor from Texas for coming and being such a wonderful support during the difficult days in December. All the love shown by our friends has been overwhelming. Thanks for your love and prayers during this time. Please keep praying God would provide a van for the Home and a Pickup for the Feeding Centers. We have a lot planned for 2011!

In His service,

Byron and Briceida Willis

Thank you for your faithful support sent in Nov. \$ _____: Dec. \$ _____

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The picture on the left is of Anita Martinez three days before she was struck by a SUV on Dec. 3, 2010. On the right is Anita two weeks later. She was a Bible college student, a Sunday School teacher, a worker in the Orphanage and a Bible Teacher in a Feeding Center.

