The Lams: Serving with Joy
Sermon Titles

Sanctuary

**June 4**
COMMUNION
Courtney Ellis
ALIVE TO GOD

**June 11**
Jackson Clelland
ALIVE TO GOD

**June 18**
Daryl Ellis
ALIVE TO GOD

**June 25**
Jackson Clelland
ALIVE TO GOD

Awake

**June 4**
COMMUNION
Jackson Clelland
ALIVE TO GOD

**June 11**
Courtney Ellis
ALIVE TO GOD

**June 18**
Jackson Clelland
ALIVE TO GOD

**June 25**
Daryl Ellis
ALIVE TO GOD

A Caring Congregation

Dear PCOM Family,

What I experienced on Sunday, May 7th could be called a “Miracle” because I heard almost every spoken word in the prayers and sermon. I have suffered from progressive hearing loss over many years, and in the last few years I have not been able to hear and understand most of the Sunday sermons well. But this last Sunday with the new hearing loop installed in the sanctuary, I heard so much through my tele-coil in my hearing equipment that I could fully participate in the service. I can only say a big “thank you” to the donors who gave and the Session who voted to complete the sale for the installation of our new hearing loop. It has enriched my life, and I know that it will do so for all the rest of our congregation who need this valuable help in enjoying all services held in our sanctuary. May God bless our church so all may hear.

With great appreciation, I remain
Sincerely yours,

Pril Worcester Kirkeby, PCOM Member since 1994
and also PCOM Church Librarian

Mission Statement:

- Walking with Jesus
- Serving with Love
- Sharing with Courage

Benefit Concert with George Winston

**Saturday August 19**
7pm

Presbyterian Church of the Master
26051 Marguerite Pkwy • Mission Viejo, CA 92692
FREE ADMISSION—RSVP REQUIRED

Please RSVP by June 30 to Rachel Wilson at 360.633.1630
The Lams: Serving with Joy

Serving in the churches they have attended has simply been a natural part of Tom and Dianne Lam’s lives. They grew up in the Reformed Church in America and Presbyterian Church, and were encouraged from an early age to harness their gifts and abilities to help further the mission of the church.

Tom was born in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands where his father was the pastor of the Dutch Reformed church, which last year celebrated their 350th anniversary as a congregation. Tom was born on a Wednesday, was in church the next Sunday, and has been in church ever since. His ministry includes 22 years serving full time for Lake Hills Community Church, Coast Hills Community Church, and the Crystal Cathedral. His family is of Dutch descent with Tom’s Great-Great Grandfather and brothers changing their last name to Lam - representing “the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world”. When Tom was five, his family moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan where he was raised, along with two brothers and one sister, until he joined the United States Marine Corp, where he served for 4 years.

Dianne is a native Californian, born and raised in Orange County. Her family moved to Mission Viejo in 1975 and became members of Lake Hills Community Church. Unbeknownst to Dianne, her father Chuck was a matchmaker. He met Tom, a young Marine, in the Bethel Series Leadership class they both attended at the church and invited him to their house for Thanksgiving dinner in 1979 (knowing full well that he had a daughter at home that was Tom’s age). Tom met Dianne and the rest is history. Even though Dianne’s father did the matchmaking, they know meeting was part of God’s plan. They married in 1981 and are parents to three boys, Timothy, 32, is married to Cierra, live in Rancho Santa Margarita and have blessed Tom and Dianne with 4 beautiful grandchildren, two boys and two girls. Matthew, 29, lives in Colorado with his wife Lindsay. They met at Biola and after graduating, moved to Denver for Lindsay to attend Denver Seminary where she pursued a degree in counseling. Matt is Director of IT at Youth for Christ headquarters. John, is 22 and can be seen around PCOM working on sound, video, and other various capacities in the church. John attends Saddleback Community College and is studying film production.

Presently, Tom is unemployed. He has been a Facilities Manager at two of the churches mentioned above, and was head of Telecommunications for the Crystal Cathedral for 10 years. His latest position was the IT Support Services Manager for Pacific Dental Services with offices in 18 states. After coming to PCOM and joining the church, he promised Dianne he would never again get involved in the sound department. However, when Tom recognized the need for leadership in this area he, once again jumped in, and has now been directing the sound department for four years. PCOM has been truly blessed with Tom’s expertise in this area. Most people only notice the sound when there are issues, and otherwise forget about it. But Tom, and their youngest son, John, who is also apart of the team, have been working behind the scenes to make sure cables are laid, microphones are checked at each event, as well as installing the new projectors and the T-Coil hearing system. Tom’s talents are many and his dependability and experience in all walks of life shows his trustworthiness.

Dianne worked at a law firm in the Irvine Spectrum area as an Administrative Assistant for sixteen years. Now she is blessing us as our part-time receptionist at PCOM, which, for Dianne is an answer to prayer and which she considers her dream job! She is, in turn, blessed as this gives her time to spend helping her mom Gladys Redding, who celebrated her 92nd birthday on Christmas Eve. Dianne was also an Elder for Care Ministries at PCOM before taking the job as Receptionist.

In February of this year, Tom joined an eight-member team that went to the Dominican Republic. The trip was wonderful with many lasting memories. The goals were to build a latrine and re-roof a house which they did but the trip was much more than tasks and projects, it was truly a time of ministering to the people of Los Robles (village), the staff at COTN (Children of the Nations), and to our own team. Tom was the designated photographer for the trip taking over 3,500 pictures of the kids, families, and activities of the village.

Tom and Dianne have a life filled with service to others and to the Lord Jesus Christ. Without His guidance, things would not have fallen into place in their lives and they can honestly say that their trust is totally on Jesus. They know that He has a plan for their lives and they will walk with Him confidently and with joy every day.
**Summer Women’s Study**

Women’s Bible Study Express (WBSE) and the Moms Summer Bible Study, team up this summer to offer Rocking Ordinary: Holding It Together with Extraordinary Grace. Through her book and video excerpts, author Lea Ann Garfias shows us how “God uses our ordinary lives in extraordinary ways if we have the courage and faith to simply obey wherever we are.” Join us on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., June 14-August 9 (not on 7/12) for fellowship and to learn how God wants to use you for His glory, no matter your circumstances or stage of life. The cost is $10 and free childcare (infant through 11 yrs. old) is available while space allows.

For questions, and to sign up by June 5th, contact Stephanie Eklund (949) 613-6282, saeklund@cox.net, or Becky Pacini (650) 799-4719, beckypacini@gmail.com.

**Preschool News**

We are wrapping up another fantastic year of wonder and amazement at PCOM Preschool. You are all invited to our year end concert on June 6th and 7th at 11:00 a.m., in the sanctuary. Our summer camps are set for June 19th-23rd and June 26th-30th. Week #1 Learning is an Adventure in the Great Outdoors! Week #2 Discovering Moana, the Mighty Ocean! M-F, 9:00 a.m.- noon, $135.00 per week per child. Registration forms online at our website and in the preschool office.

**Library News**

In June the Church Library will highlight more newly donated books (and study booklets). Some feature titles to celebrate Father’s Day, and three new inspirational books, one which will soon be made into a major motion picture, “Lion” taken from the autobiography, A Long Way Home by Saroo Brierly. Saroo’s book covers his early life in India in a very poor family, his getting lost at five years old and winding up on the streets of Calcutta before being adopted by a couple from Tasmania, Australia. He finally goes back to search for his mother, two brothers and sister in India when he is in his late twenties. A recent sermon about “Courage comes from God” is evident in A Long Way Home, and the Bible verse from Joshua “says it all” in Joshua 1:7 “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.” Enjoy some good reading in June. If you have questions about the library, you may contact Phil Kirkeby, Library Coordinator at pwkirkeby@cox.net or 949-855-6786.

**Session Notes**

The Elders got together for their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday May 16 at 6:45 PM. Highlights from the meeting:

- Membership is up from 900 to 926
- Received a letter of thanks for the T-Coil hearing system. It has made it possible for some to hear clearly for the first time in a long time.
- Approval of 3 upcoming baptisms and report on 2 previous baptisms.
- We moved the approval of a change of name the Membership and Assimilation committee will now be called the Membership and Hospitality committee. This fits with our developing understanding of being a “host” to our “guests” instead of seeing people as simply visiting.
- We approved a fundraiser for COTN to be held on Saturday, August 19, at 7PM. The event will be an evening of solo with grammy award winning George Winston. Admission will be free but there will be a freewill offering taken. Some proceeds from the event will be directed to our Dominican Republic partnership with COTN, with the balance going to other COTN initiatives. The PCOM congregation will have an opportunity to RSVP ahead of the general public. It will likely be a full event.
Women’s Ministry

We have had a wonderful year in Women’s ministries so far bringing the women of the church together with Bunko nights, Movie nights, Christmas Brunch and our One Day Women’s retreat last month with Speaker singer/songwriter Jana Alayra. It is such a pleasure to meet and serve the women of this church. Ladies, you are amazing!

We hope to extend Women’s Ministries to include opportunities as well. In the future, we would like to offer opportunities for our women to volunteer and do some hands-on helping in small groups around our community. Currently Women’s Ministries supports three main charities who help women and children.

- **South County Outreach**: Helps those in crisis reach self-sufficiency by providing the following services: food pantry, homeless prevention counseling, utility and rental assistance, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, computer learning lab, and clothing vouchers. “These programs provide dignity and hope -- realistic hope for a better future.” South County Outreach (949)-380-8144
- **The Give Back Pack Foundation**: Puts together and distributes backpacks filled with NEW clothing, toys, pajamas, shoes, books, stuffed animals, etc.... We parlay the activity of sale shopping to put new merchandise into the hands of those who need it most - foster children. The Give Back Pack (949) 303-6444
- **Mary’s Shelter**: Provides a loving home to pregnant minors who have committed to carrying their babies full term and to teen mothers and their babies who are in need of supportive services. They provide compassionate care to through everything from: housing, medical care access, education, spiritual formation, counseling, and practical life skills.” Mary’s Shelter (714) 730-0930

If you would like to get involved with Women’s ministries, we invite you to join our Women’s Ministries Committee. We have a meeting the first Monday of the month (Sept-June) where we plan out events for the women of our church. We’re always looking for new people to join our dedicated group of gals. You can call Kelly (949) 525-5345 or Kristy (949) 351-5659 for more info. Get involved. We’re fun.

Family Prayer Workshop

Over the last few weeks, twelve families came together to gather some tools for helping them pray as a family. Everything from Lego relay races, to making our own prayer boards, to writing their own version of the Lord’s Prayer kept them moving. So along with some fun and games, and some serious conversation, we all gained a better understanding of how God wants us to pray. Praying together as a family, what could be better than that?
Deacon’s Corner

The Deacons joined the Elders in welcoming 26 new members into our congregation in May! What an exciting time for PCOM! Thank you to all the Deacons who came to the reception! Everyone is encouraged to warmly welcome each one of these new members!

Summer is here and that means lots of vacations, but your Deacons will continue to provide meals, home communion, make hospital visits, pray for you after each church service, help serve at the Sunday Community Dinner, provide transportation to church, and in any other ways we can. If you or anyone you know, needs any of these services, please call your Deacon, myself or Sue Ashby in the church office. If you do not know who your Deacon is, please let me know and we will make sure you get connected!

Our Deacons are working closely with the new Bridge Program here at PCOM; A wonderful program of one-to-one Christian caring. Pastor Courtney or Jackie Kosewick can provide you with more information.

Blessings,
Maryjane Hilbun, (949)244-1739, lmjhilbun@cox.net

Opportunities To Serve

South County Outreach needs helping hands to distribute groceries to clients who apply; drivers to pick up groceries and supplies from supermarkets and others are needed. Call South County Outreach at (949)380-8144 to volunteer or for more information.

Prayer Concerns

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<th>Sandi Von Paul</th>
<th>Ken Pickard</th>
<th>Lois Annis</th>
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Music Ministry

Did you know? The following are bits of interesting information about your PCOM musician staff I thought you might like to know:

1. Our choir director Dr. Donavon Gray has been appointed to the Music staff at Concordia University in Irvine. He will direct the Bell Choir and work with the Orchestra dept.
2. Emily Wood is a music student at Concordia.
3. Anderson Isiagu has just completed three semesters of his Masters program at APU. His recital will be in November and you will receive an invitation to attend.
4. Our drummer Alex Zechiel is getting married on June 11. Gene is baking the wedding cake (200 cupcakes)
5. Our keyboard player Don French is on the staff of music teachers at Idlywild Music School.
6. Gene and his wife Dr. Andre flew to Iowa to spend time with their family Roz, Brendan, Eden, Charlotte and Rivka on April 27 to celebrate Eden’s 9th birthday. They moved there March 16. Roz is singing each week at their church of around 50 members. God is blessing this move.
7. Kathy Harris has been playing the organ and singing at a little church in Laguna Woods (Mayflower Congregational) for the past five years. She also gives the sermon on days the regular pastor is gone. She plays at PCOM for our 9 am service before she drives to Laguna Woods. This small congregation began in 1963 and is now folding on May 28 due to lack of attendance. Pray that she finds another similar job and that she can continue to serve at PCOM in the future.
8. I am excited the Mayflower Church is donating their fairly new digital organ to Riverside College. They will start teaching organ in September. It has been my project for the past year, to find an organ for them.

Gene Roberson, Director of Music and Worship
Youth Ministries

The youth department truly shined on May 6 at the Red, White and True: An American BBQ fundraiser!

It was evening filled with good food, lots of laughter, an exciting auction, but most of all guests were able to witness the impact the youth department is having on the teens at PCOM.

Erin Hiller, a senior, shared her experience and how her mentors inspired her to become a leader in the Junior High group. She described how junior high can be a tough period in people’s lives, and how PCOM’s junior high program and leaders welcomed her and positively impacted her life. Being a youth leader has given her the opportunity to pour into the lives of junior highers the way she was poured into. Maddi Hundley relayed how much she loves Forest Home. She is planning to attend camp six times this summer. It was perfect when her parents discovered they had the winning raffle ticket for the Forest Home Boosters donated Gift Certificate!

Sydney Riccardi shared about her amazing experience during the RIDE trip to Utah, lots of laughs and happy memories. Emily Miller and Jenny Kroeger both took part in the Mexicali trip for the first time this year. They related their experiences about overcoming fears, meeting new people and how God met them where they were. Emily had such a powerful experience the first week, she went back for a second week! Finally, senior Parker Machado wrapped youth speakers up as he walked us thru his journey the last 5 years in the youth program. He shared how being a leader has impacted him as much as the students he is mentoring. It was truly a gift to hear about the program on such a personal level from these 6 teens.

Our Director of Youth Ministry, Matt Becerra, explained why the funds being raised are so instrumental to this program. Guests learned that every student benefits from the Youth Fundraiser. It is a mission of Youth Ministries that financial resources will not inhibit any student from attending a mission trip, winter camp or Forest Home. A good percentage of the funds raised go towards offsetting the fee for every student. Youth Ministries is able to then charge less that the actual cost per student allowing more students to attend. There are also monies set aside for scholarships so that finances aren’t a limiting factor in learning and discovering more about God and his word.

Matt also took this opportunity to introduce Dakota Shyres. Dakota will be joining the PCOM staff on June 1st as the Associate Director of Youth Ministries. Dakota has spent the last 3 summers on staff at Forest Home and comes to us as a recent graduate of Biola University. The youth department is eager to have Dakota on board. Her love of the Lord and passion for junior highers is a fantastic addition to our staff.

Keeping the tradition alive, LaVal Brewer and Clayton Simon generously donated their lively personalities and fast talking to get the live auction started. Thank you to the generosity of the PCOM Covenant groups, Forest Home Boosters, PCOM Quilters and the PCOM church family, there was an abundance of Silent and Live auction items as well as almost 30 raffle baskets.

On behalf of PCOM’s Youth Ministries department, thank you for your support and generosity. The success of this year’s fundraiser means that Youth Ministries can continue doing what it does best: teaching, leading, guiding and loving the youth at PCOM. We hope you can join the fun at next year’s Youth Fundraiser.
PCOM Returned to Los Robles – February 5-13, 2017

Sunday/Monday, Feb. 5/6 - Sunday night our team of eight (Pastor Jackson Clelland, Dick & Linda Payne, Tom Lam, David Callahan, Ray Irwin, and Neil & Cinda Slate) drove away from PCOM in a cold light rain to LAX. (Lyle Johnson drove us and our cargo in the church van!)

At 11:30pm, our red-eye took off for Atlanta - lots of turbulence but we arrived early - maybe those rocky winds helped. After breakfast in Atlanta’s airport, we took off for Santo Domingo and arrived at 1:30pm at Aeropuerto Internacional Las Américas (Santo Domingo Airport) to warm, balmy temperatures - about 85 humid degrees with just a few sprinkles. We were thrilled to see Franklin there to meet us! Franklin is COTN staff; he shepherds COTN’s teams during their visits. Franklin is a terrific leader and people-person (and apparently Franklin knows everyone in Barahona)!

COTN makes sure teams have at least one or two translators plus staff security at all times. We piled all our suitcases and sleepy bodies into the COTN van and headed up to Barahona several hours away. We stopped after two hours for lunch in a large Supermercado (sort of like a Walmart), then climbed back into the van for another two hours through rolling countryside to Casa Betesda, COTN’s guest house for visiting teams in Barahona.

We were bleary-eyed from lack of sleep and the looong rides (about 22 hours travel time), so we were happy to see those blue and white “Welcome Home” gates of Casa Betesda, our base for the next week.

There waiting for us were Edwin, who leads COTN’s Dominican Republic Venture Program, Megan - COTN’s Liaison to the Dominican Republic & Haiti, and Lilian, COTN’s new International Finance Administrator (visiting from Malawi). It’s an extra blessing that Megan’s & Lilian’s visits coincided with ours! After a fast wash-up, we sat down to our first great dinner - then bed at last! Our comfortable rooms were made ready by very friendly staff. Everyone slept well, can’t imagine why...

Tuesday, Feb. 7 - Breakfast at 8am: scrambled eggs, ham, toast, pancakes... Finalized the week’s plans, then off we went to the COTN Barahona office.

At the office, Edwin introduced us to the office staff - again many familiar faces. Neil & I hugged our dear ‘daughter’ Rosaniris, who works as Office Receptionist while in her second year of university. Her goal is to graduate as a pediatrician and to serve the people of Los Robles.

This trip we are blessed to have Tom Lam with us taking pics and videoing! Next we visited COTN’s Clinic, which adjoins the office and offers medical and dental services to COTN’s families for free; other village families and nearby neighbors are treated at greatly reduced rates.

The entire team was delighted to watch Ray Irwin’s face in the dental unit! Ray told us he has been on several dental missions and usually the dental unit is a lawn chair and a maybe a card table. Ray was thrilled to see two real dental chairs and other professional equipment! He was like a kid in a candy store, figuring out what’s needed for his next trip!

Back to the Casa for lunch, then to Los Robles to start our projects. The men began work on a latrine and Linda Payne with Emy, her translator began several days of visiting every home in the village and taking pictures of everything and everyone. They’re inviting everyone to our Village Fiesta on Saturday afternoon. We’re planning several crafts, face-painting, volleyball and treats. Our Fiesta was a big hit last year and we’re hoping for the same this trip. Lotsa work, lotsa fun!

As the team worked on those projects, I worked on this report and visited with several children who came by the COTN van including Nancy and Naika, Neil’s & my ‘daughters’. Nancy is a junior in high school and plans to attend university to study to be a doctor. Naika is also a junior and will study Hospitality.

At every turn we saw familiar faces with big smiles and outstretched arms. First-timers David, Ray, and Tom were met like old family friends. There is warmth and love from all the people we meet. Our limited Spanish is not a problem; COTN’s translators help and the people love to try out the English they’ve learned.

Around 5:30pm, we headed back to the Casa for showers and dinner. On the way, light rain started, stopped, and finally let loose mid-evening. Electricity went out for a couple of minutes after dinner, just enough to reset the Wi-Fi when power resumed. (That’s why this email was delayed to you - because staff had already gone home for the night.)

Adiós for tonight, tomorrow’s adventures tomorrow.
Wednesday, Feb. 8 - This morning we again split in several directions - Neil, Ray, Jackson, David & Dick worked on the latrine. “Latrine” is not the right word: this is really a restroom with two rooms, one with sink & toilet, one with a shower. Water for both sides is supplied by buckets. This restroom will serve three families and everyone is excited for this project’s completion!

Linda and Tom walked through Los Robles, continuing to meet and invite everyone to our Village Fiesta on Saturday. There are about 120 homes in Los Robles, so they spent hot, dusty hours reaching as many as possible. Tom took about a million pics and a translator walked with them & helped with conversations.

I went with Carolina and her assistant to another school, Algodon, where we worked with three classes: 4th, 5th, and 8th grades. Carolina heads up the Sponsorship Program in D.R. She led the kids through their writing assignments and I helped check their work. My purpose was to help and to be a part of their day. I loved looking around the classrooms and seeing the similarities between their classrooms and ours at home.

Weather was DR’s typical winter: about 86 degrees, humid with some cloud cover and light rain every so often which helped clear off the dust.

After lunch, Carolina and Edwin gave a short overview of the sponsorship program so we could ask questions. Then the men finished the restroom project, Linda & Tom continued reaching the village, and I started making the sixty-eight 5x8 gift bag name cards for the ice cream party Friday afternoon.

Dinner was very special! Our team took each of our own sponsored children to a local pizzeria. There were about 24 of us: 8 team members, 11 children and our great COTN staff. Some of the children had never had pizza; this dinner was a big treat to all of them. Pizza in the D.R. is a little different – some of our pizza had corn as a topping.

Special Events at Dinner: Ray stood and announced the 15th birthday (that day) of his sponsored ‘son’, Emanuel – and of course we sang “Happy Birthday” in English AND then in Spanish.

Then Neil stood and told about our very first sponsored child, Alberto. Years ago in 2009, we chose Alberto because his birthday was the same as Neil’s - Nov 14 - and he planned to become a teacher, the same as I. As it happened, we had Alberto for only a few months, then for some reason he was not in the program and we wondered about him for several years... In the meantime, we sponsored Naika, Nancy, and Rosaniris.

Then, just before this trip I was looking at the COTN website and saw a young man named Alberto in the list of children needing sponsors...and his birthday was Nov 14! I wondered if he could be ‘our’ Alberto from years ago? This young man was in his Gap* year and planned to go into the Hospitality Training Program. Because of this, when we arrived at Casa Betesda we asked about Alberto, because the Casa is the place for DR Venture Teams and guests so we thought he might be working there. But no one seemed to know where he was.

While working on the restroom project, Neil discovered the young man working alongside him was Alberto! So we invited him to the pizza party that night. He was totally surprised when Neil told everyone our Alberto Story and then announced we were going to sponsor Alberto again. In talking with him, we found that Alberto loves languages and has excellent English. He wants to learn German and Italian for his Hospitality studies. It was a very emotional time, but we all rejoiced and celebrated ... with more pizza! Have you ever eaten corn pizza??? It is really good and we enjoyed every bite.

¡Adiós por este noche!

*Gap year - the year between high school and university; student works at a paid job for COTN and has a chance to demonstrate dependability and responsibility, while earning money.

Thursday, Feb. 9 - The men began the roof repair project this morning, completely removing the old metal roof & putting up new rafters. While they worked, David’s child Mailin came and took his hand, leading him down the street to her house to meet her mother. Then she led him to the tienda (store) where her father worked. They found him reading his Bible. David was quite overwhelmed with all the Spanish (David’s second language is French) and he went to find a translator!

While that adventure unfolded, Linda and her translator Amy continued going from house to house inviting everyone to Saturday’s Fiesta. At the same time, I went to Los Robles School visiting 3rd and 4th grades working with Carolina again.

After lunch, the men put up new stringers and the new corrugated metal roof. And the new roof was finished! While all that excitement was going on, I made and inserted all the name cards into the front of the childrens’ gift bags and packed the bags alphabetically into four big suitcases. Linda again walked the village with her translator inviting everyone.
After another good meal we continued planning for Friday, which was to begin with Jackson’s Seminar for local pastors at the COTN office in the morning.

**Friday, Feb. 10** - For the past few years Pastor Jackson has given a seminar and luncheon for all the local pastors. There are always 25-30 who come for this special time designed just to bless them. These men (and a few women) are usually pastor volunteers who have full time jobs in the community. They serve without much training (if any) and they’re hungry for the ideas, Bible study, and counsel Jackson brings. They travel by bus, motorcycle, car and on foot to participate. We provide a nice lunch and it is a time of real blessing for each one. Tom went to the seminar to video and take photos. Tom’s goal is to fill up those 64G SD cards with as many pics as he can!

Back at the Casa while the seminar was going on, the rest of the team was in high gear! We were setting up for the Ice Cream Party that afternoon at 2:30, when we PCOM’s gift bags would be given to the children. We put up a brand new volleyball net, set up a table for play-doh, set out jump ropes large & small, blew up balloons, prepared craft areas and set up a face-painting table.

After lunch, Jackson returned - his seminar on the Book of Ruth was very well received with lots of interaction and discussion by the pastors. Franklin (COTN Teams Leader) translated and Tom documented it with great pics.

The children arrived in two busloads, and all 68 of them in were in high spirits! They were SO excited! We sat them down for a short time of (hilarious) singing led by Ray. Next Linda gave a lesson about Jesus making life sweet, using the ‘lemons and sugar = lemonade’ illustration from Julie’s Children’s Message a few weeks ago. Linda had a water dispenser set up with lemonade so all could have an extra treat and learn at the same time.

After that, we turned them loose on all the fun things we had for them. The whole team played with the kids; I painted almost all those faces and we had a great time! (The Casa pool was closed for repairs, but the kids discovered a small ornamental pool and soon all of the kids were splashing away. After all, it was a HOT day in D.R.!) But it wasn’t hard to get them settled down for the next big activity: THE GIFT BAGS sent by their PCOM sponsors! With all the kids in place, David passed the gift bags to Cinda who checked each one the Master List, while Neil announced each child’s name, Ray & Linda got each child up to the front, and Tom took a picture of each child with Jackson. Whew! Again this year as it was last year, we saw many children who didn’t dump out their gift bags – they opened them, fingered through them and then closed them up to take home. We know many kids open and empty out their bags at home to share with their brothers and sisters.

**Saturday, Feb. 11** - We hit the ground running today because our Village Fiesta for the entire batey (village) of Los Robles was to start at 2pm. After breakfast, our whole team (plus translators and security) got into the van and drove into Barahona to a mercado (market) to buy soft drinks and cookies for our guests. We also picked up donuts and muffins for Jackson’s informal time with the men of the village during the Fiesta. It’s hard to get the men to come to these fiestas – many of them think the Fiesta is just for the kids and women. This year, Linda made a special effort to invite the men personally as she walked the village. She told them, “Come to the men’s meeting at the fiesta and ask El Pastor Jackson anything you want about the Bible!”

After lunch we headed for the Los Robles School to set up everything in the playground/lunch tables/parking area. We were barely ready by two o’clock when people started coming in from all directions and all the activities rolled out. Chaos, but a good chaos!

Linda brought about 200 photos of Los Robles faces from previous trips. David and Ray taped each picture on one of the classroom’s outside walls and before they even finished putting them up, clusters of people began hunting for their own picture. Anyone who found their picture could take it down and keep it! Always thinking ahead, if there were three people in a picture, Linda brought three copies of the picture so each could have one.
We also had a craft table for making an angel decoration for the mothers and older girls. Out on the playground, kids were playing volleyball which is very popular in DR. The jump ropes were also popular and I had my face-painting table set out under a tree. I painted cheeks for two hours straight! I should have counted because I have no idea how many there were.

And El Pastor Jackson’s Men’s Meeting brought in THIRTY men who were so pleased to have a special meeting just for them. They are typically very shy; Jackson made a point to serve each man his drink and muffin himself so that he was able to speak with each man.

At four o’clock, the Fiesta was over and our guests headed out and so did we! That evening after dinner we met with Edwin and Franklin to talk about our week. And then we crashed - the end of another good day.

Sunday, Feb. 12 - It was a beautiful Sunday, lots of sunshine and a lovely breeze. We looked forward to visiting Franklin’s church in the evening where Jackson was bringing the message with Franklin translating.

At 10am, we headed out in the van to the hills near the coast. Scrub and underbrush gave way to lush foliage, fragrant flowers and vines. After some time we entered a gated park-like area. We got out and discovered huge pools, man-made and natural. Several waterfalls and cascades poured into each other. It was cool, peaceful and beautiful - many shades of green, dappled light and the sound of rushing water. Winding rock trails led up the hillsides where Tom took lots of gorgeous pictures and then we headed back out to the van.

A bit more driving, then we were in another lovely area along the coast. We stopped at a few places for pictures with backgrounds that looked like commercial postcards with amazing views of the bay ringed by bougainvillea and other colorful flowers. Our next stop was a beautiful uncrowded beach. Small food stands were linked by wood-slat pathways over the beach rocks. Franklin ordered a big grilled fish that we picked apart and ate with our fingers. Absolutely delicious!

On our way back to the Casa, we drove through the batey Don Bosco, the largest batey in the area. We stopped for a few minutes at Don Bosco School, then we got back in the van, driving further through the hills and scrub of Don Bosco. Lots of people were out and about, many homes had bright laundry draped on their fences, and we saw lots of children and many dogs. We were surprised to spot Emanuel (Ray’s sponsored son) so we stopped for a short visit with him; then on we went to the Casa for lunch and some siesta time.

After a quick dinner we left for Franklin’s church. Light rain was barely beginning. We arrived at the church about twenty minutes before the service began - music was playing, Franklin was running sound checks, and a few women were on their knees intensely in prayer getting ready for the worship service. Many people came to hug and welcome us and give us bottles of chilled water. Everyone was warm and welcoming.

After much preparation, the service began with an extended and enthusiastic call to prayer in Spanish. Then Franklin’s wife came to the front with a second call to prayer in the form of singing. The pastor welcomed us (translated by Franklin) and Franklin introduced Jackson. I haven’t mentioned before what great friends Jackson and Franklin have become – but it is evident when they preach together, they are quite a team. What a blessing for both men!

It rained off and on and then poured down through Jackson’s message about Ruth and Naomi. He used a colorful baseball analogy about life throwing us curve balls but Jesus redeeming those strikes against us. It was perfect for a country devoted to pelota (baseball)! Franklin translated as Jackson spoke; everyone listened and “Hallelujah’d” and “Amen’d” along with his message. It was fascinating and worship-driven. To finish, the pastor called our team forward. The congregation encircled and prayed for us, thanking God for our team and asking Him for our safe travel home the next morning.

We understood little but also understood much. The rain had come and gone during the service, so the streets, trees and lights sparkled as we quietly drove home to the Casa for our last night. We reluctantly had to set our alarms for an hour earlier than usual the next morning for our drive to the airport.

Monday, Feb. 13 - We got underway in our fully paked van at 7:30am and headed to Santo Domingo and the airport - SDQ and home! Along the way we talked about our week and looked at the countryside for the last time on our trip. Of course, Tom continued taking pictures all the way; we even made a special stop so he could get a picture of a luckless skinned goat, strung up for sale at a small tienda, offered for a family’s dinner.

Silence set in and everyone got choked up as we approached the fork in the highway where LEFT would have taken us to Los Robles but RIGHT was taking us inexorably to Santo Domingo. “Left! Left! Left!” we all shouted to our startled driver - but he kept to the right and we had to say good-bye to our hearts in Dominican Republic. ¡Pero hasta el año que viene! (But until next year!)

Have you found yourself thinking about being part of next year’s Los Robles trip? Keep an eye on the Sunday bulletin for updates and meetings this fall. Be a part of the blessing! You will never forget it.
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<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
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<td>Warm Hands/Warm Hearts</td>
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**DAYS OF PENTECOST**

**COMMUNION SUNDAY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Guest Welcome Lunch</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Room 103</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sixth Grade Lunch</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Room 103</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Neighborhood Dinner</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>The Commons</td>
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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Boy Scouts</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Great Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>College/Young Adults</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Room 103</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Warm Hands/Warm Hearts</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Conf. Room</td>
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<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal &amp; Lunch</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Conf. Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Club H2O</td>
<td>6:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Room 103</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>NAMI</td>
<td>6:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Room 103</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Women's Bible Study</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>College/Young Adults</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Room 103</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Club H2O</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Room 103</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Club H2O Staff &amp; Volunteer Dinner</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Room 103</td>
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**Sunday Worship Schedule**

- 9:00 & 10:45 a.m. - Blended Service - Sanctuary
  - Adult Sunday School
  - Nursery (0 to 2 yrs.)
- 10:45 a.m. - AWAKE: Alternative Worship Service - The Commons
  - High School Program
  - Jr. High Program
  - Adult Sunday School

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**Church of the Master**

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949 582-2670

www.mypcom.com