

Chepo Good Shepherd School 2011-2012 Featured Project

We remember when Pastor Salomon Sampson came by our offices a few years ago to talk with us about his vision to open a school in Chepo. Chepo is a city of 25,000 located about an hour east of Panama City, along the Pan-American Highway. Pastor Salomon and Coralia have been pastoring *Centro de Vida Cristiana* (Christian Life Center) in Chepo for 25 years. This long-tenured pastor has seen how a church school can be an effective outreach into the community. But he needed help to turn his vision into reality.

The school opened in 2008 with 56 pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade students in crowded church facilities. The school now has 153 students through 4th grade. Construction began two years ago on the new school, a three-story building that will include 12 classrooms, offices and library. When completed the school will offer through 9th grade and have a capacity more than 400!

A building team led by Missionary Nelson Lugo completed the first classroom and half of another. The church completed the second classroom in time for the 2010 school year. We helped the church the third classroom by February for this school year. Two MAPS teams have continued the construction.

First Assembly of God, St. Charles, MO sent a large team of 40 to minister on three fronts. The **construction team** worked to fill and level the floor and block two classrooms, then to form and pour the intermediate columns and large support beams that support the second-story floor. They also worked on the foundation of the stair/restroom area. The **medical team**, led by two doctors and three nurses, attended more than 800 people during the week. They visited several shut-ins in their homes. The **children's outreach team** conducted a Vacation Bible School in the afternoons, ministering to more than 100 children during the week. We are grateful to fellow Panama missionaries Chad and Amber Burgbacher who coordinated the medical and children's outreach teams.

Dozens of church members and school staff worked side-by-side with the team during. Ministry and logistics required help and coordination in several areas: kitchen, office, construction, medical and VBS. Team leader Dave Bundy effectively fostered a spirit of service within the team that resulted in strong bonds between team and church members. Hugs and tears in the concluding service evidenced the depth of these connections.

Bethany Assembly of God, Agawam, MA spent seven days continuing construction on the Chepo Good Shepherd School. This is Bethany's third trip to Panama. Ken Bryars, music pastor at Bethany, led two previous teams, working at the Canaan School in 2000 and at the Las Mananitas School in 2002. The team visited both of these schools on our tour day and was able to see the return on investment of their earlier construction. The Canaan School has grown from 350 in 2000 to nearly 900 today; and the Las Mananitas School has grown from about 550 in 2002 to over 775 students today.

The Bethany team focused on blocking walls for two new second floor classrooms and blocking and building support beams in the first floor stair/restroom area. The team worked hard, in spite of the hot and humid weather, completing all of the work that we had anticipated for them. This generous team also provided school supplies for all of the elementary children, brought play equipment and Bible videos for the school and gave a generous offering to help finish the computer room and purchase computers. The team worked so well, side-by-side with church members and school staff. Members of the team also sponsored five children through Latin America ChildCare.

The closing service was very special. The school and church honored each of the team members with a small gift. Then members of the congregation honored team

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Little Davey Delivers 75 Computers to Panama Schools
on reverse side

Chepo continued

members with special gifts. It was an emotional moment that illustrated how this team had connected with this church and school. Pastor Ken preached an encouraging message and challenged the church to look to the Lord for power to meet the needs of the community.

Thank you, Pastor Ken and team, for your hard work and ministry at the Chepo Good Shepherd School. We hope you'll come back soon!

The church continues construction with the materials purchased. The goal is to complete the third story floor that will serve as the temporary roof.

Please pray for this continued construction. Pray that additional teams will come to complete the third floor. Pray for needed funds to complete schools construction. If you would like to give to the Chepo School Project, please send your offering to:

Assemblies of God World Missions
Chepo School Project 14456
1445 Boonville Ave
Springfield, MO 658022

Little Davey Delivers 75 Computers to Panama Schools

David and Deborah Kaiser returned to Panama in May for the 2011 Little Davey Project Computer Campaign. Through business and individual donations, Little Davey purchased internal components for 75 computers destined for seven different Good Shepherd Schools. Latin America ChildCare and participating schools purchased the external components. This is the sixth Little Davey campaign since 2005; three in Panama and the other three in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and El Salvador.



This year's team of ten included six rookie members. The team arrived on Friday night and worked all day Saturday to assemble computers. This was the first time in the nine-year history of computer campaigns that we didn't have a single component failure! Some advanced work to prepare the hard drive image for copying, good components and a great team helped us set a record: 63 computers were completed in just one day!

The team spent Sunday attending service, souvenir shopping, touring and visiting the Panama Canal. It was a relaxing day... the calm before the storm.

Deployments began on Monday morning. Each morning included devotions and time to share each school's story and how the computers would be making a difference in the school and the lives of the individual children and youth. The computers, monitors, battery back-ups, keyboards, mice, cables, tools and other supplies were loaded into the van. After arriving to the school, the whole team unpacked all the items and "staged" them in the computer room.

Half the team would then leave for classroom visits. These "English" presentations allowed team members to share about the Lord and about their lives in the "Great Pacific Northwest." Each teacher was presented with a gift bag of useful teaching supplies.

Meanwhile, the remaining members of the team connected cables to the computers, ran network cables and started up and configured each computer. When the new "instant computer lab" was finished, a group of students were invited to sit at the new computers. The team presented soccer balls, donated by Nike, to the director of PE teacher. We then dedicated the new computers, praying for the kids and new computers.

Thank you, David and Deborah and Little Davey Team, for your generosity and good ministry. You've now given 360 computers since 2005. You are making a difference—teaching technology to so many children and youth who otherwise would not receive this critical training. We can't wait until next year!



PRAYER NEEDS & PRAISE REPORTS

- ☑ Praise the Lord for the two successful LACC Sponsorship Program Seminars conducted in Springfield in June and Panama in July. A total of 40 missionaries and national personnel attended these two-day seminars.
- ☑ Praise the Lord for the 75 computers purchased, assembled and distributed by the Little Davey Project in May for 7 schools in Panama.
- ☐ Please pray for planning underway for the two 2012 Bible School Summits that will be held April 16-19 in San Jose, Costa Rica and September 10-13 in Lima, Peru. We are anticipating 700 teachers and leaders.
- ☑ Praise the Lord for the continued growth of the schools in Panama. There are now 7,500 children and youth attending 35 schools.
- ☐ Pray that God will send needed sponsors to help more than 250 children and youth still waiting for a sponsor in Panama.
- ☑ Praise the Lord for the two teams that have finished the majority of construction on the first two floors of the Chepo Good Shepherd School. One of the four new classrooms is already being used! Please pray for additional teams to complete construction of the third floor.