

The Kenyons

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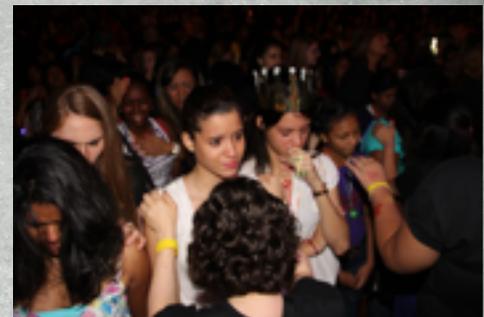
Your Missionaries to the Youth Culture of Panama



KENYON OVERVIEW

Review of our recent past ministry activity and current emphasis

On July 13, we celebrated 5 years in Panama. Over these past five years as we have been sharing the gospel in the public high schools of Panama City through ethics and character presentations, an urgent need has emerged through altar-time conversations with students. An alarming number of students, primarily, though not exclusively girls, have come to us ruined by the horror of sexual abuse. Those closest to the students are too often the offenders. Through these altar times, the Holy Spirit has burdened us to take action in the lives of these girls. Illumina conference was our first step of action toward mending these broken daughters.



In July, we hosted our 4th annual Illumina Girls conference with the message "Invencible". Along with 150 visiting American mission-team members and 200 Panamanian volunteers, we ministered to over 3,000 Panamanian girls during our Friday night and all-day Saturday event through choreography, drama, art and music. Nearly all of the

girls responded to the altar times for salvation, inner healing, and physical healing. They sang their hearts out during the worship time as they learned the songs.



This girl was delivered from a spirit named "Jezabel" in a school program earlier in the week. Here she is at Illumina receiving a new study Bible.

Through our on-going school assemblies and the annual conference, students all over Panama City have spontaneously started their own, student-led, Bible clubs in their schools. Several have invited us to be an ongoing part of their clubs and give pastoral leadership. We could not have planned this better ourselves! The Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of the Panamanian young people and we are merely here to participate in it!

Additionally, in October 2013 we were asked to provide leadership to steer-head a new committee in Assemblies of God World Missions Latin America/Carribbean Region that focuses our combined efforts to combat abuse and exploitation in our region. This is an area that we have not addressed as a missionary body in the past and we are already making huge strides to unify the work of several individuals in this area and include more of those who have resources and value to offer. The future is bright for missions in Latin America as we modify our roles as pioneer church planters to pioneer movement igniters, challenging all of our churches to intervene more in the human needs and suffering around them with the truth of the gospel that only they carry.



The next term

As we have been ministering in the public and private schools of the city and praying with students as they reveal their most intimate and dark secrets of abuse and exploitation, we have heard the Holy Spirit call us to build a ministry center called “El Refuge”. As many local churches struggle to reach the current generation of youth, we have been called to build a model that utilizes all of the talents and giftings these young people possess to glorify God. We are partnering with a few national churches who are willing to take the risk of doing things differently in order to reach the lost students of Panama. However, there is an additional challenge of establishing a place where students who are being victimized in their own homes or sold on the streets can go to receive refuge, healing, and restoration. By God’s grace and provision, we have secured and remodeled office space to serve as “El Refuge” where we can have a church, a refuge, and a resource center to give these students every opportunity to break the generational bondage of sexual exploitation and poverty. Panamanian students are brilliant and gifted. We seek to be a ministry center that instills in them their value as a bearer of God’s image, capable of accomplishing any dream He puts within them.

One of the greater challenges and goals as we continue our ministry in Panama is to involve ever more nationals and national churches. It has taken time to earn trust and camaraderie with them, especially because we arrived here so young. We are discipling a group of 25 young people in their 20’s who serve in six of our larger, influential churches in the city as youth leaders. They have a burning hunger to do more to reach students but have encountered countless obstacles in doing so. We are mentoring them to ignite change while always honoring the bride of Christ and serving their leadership with pure hearts. The more Panamanians who share our vision for this generation, the greater the move of God can sweep over the country!



Current budget and projected financial status

We have been blessed throughout this 5 year term to gain a modest amount of new support where support has been decreased or lost. As a young family, our new iteration term will experience an increase in monthly budget due to the cost of living in the largest shipping port in the world and the addition of our now school-aged childrens' schooling.

Additionally, there is the dream of “El Refuge”. We have taken the first step to open a modest space. God has placed several intensely gifted partners in our path to work with us on establishing a self-sustaining ministry model that fully participates in the local Panamanian economy and funds the ministry. We are working on a master plan that will require seed-funds from 12-24 major donors as building prices in Panama City will be between 2-3 million dollars for the ideal facility to house “El Refuge”.



Partnership with The Kenyons

We returned to the United States August 1, 2015, to begin raising funds for our next term. We are looking for partners who will support the ministry spiritually and financially. As we have experienced through our past term in Panama, the battle we are in is fierce and relentless, looking for as many casualties as possible. It will take a great deal of generosity, both monthly and one-time offerings, for the ministry to reach a worthy share of the hurting. But, even more, it will take the faithful prayer and relentless dedication of the redeemed to see those who are lost, found. Please pray about our potential partnership. We hope that if you sign on to be a part of the great move of the Spirit happening in Panama you will even consider visiting and experiencing, first-hand, the transforming lives of young men and women. If not, please be vigilant in lifting their names before the Lord along with our names, your missionaries, engaged in the battle every single day.

