

Cathy's Caribbean Quarterly

June 11, 2012

The past few months have been full of transitions in this ministry. When I returned to the DR last fall, I knew my role in the clinic in San Pedro would be different. From my first term I knew teaching options while carrying a caseload were limited and I've not had a caseload since returning. I've helped with patient care and prepared to teach many things, but with the change in director at the clinic in February, all of the teaching components in San Pedro have been cancelled. By the time you receive this, the clinic will likely have moved from the church property completing the separation from the church. Speaking recently with Bishop Holguin, he never imagined when he invited me to 'his' PT clinic during a visit to Colorado that he would not have that clinic. When God closes a door, God opens at least a window.

Long term mission service entails many different things, but a big part is about relationships. Back in 2005 I met a young woman named Jilmary. She was working in the capital at the ADR as the assistant director of the PT department and at that time she was the only licensed PT working there (of 23). We have developed our friendship over the years working together. We've talked over the status of physical therapy and the university program much during this time. One of the big limiting factors was that the PT program was run by a physiatrist who wanted PTs to remain as technicians. The change we had prayed for finally occurred last month and Jilmary is the new director of the PT program! She is wasting no time in addressing changes to the curriculum which will benefit the current students, while recognizing the need for careful design for future classes. She has asked for my assistance in this process, as well as continued assistance with the clinical training with the students.



It has been an unsettled time recently but thanks to God and your prayers, a feeling of peace is predominant now. There is still some unfolding to go to see how God will use me with the community health program at the Clinica Esperanza y Caridad and with a research project two other missionary PTs have asked me to help with. My faith community in Santa Fe is also in some transition as we build a new church building on the old site. Please pray for my faithful service to our Lord and Savior and to see God's way through these changes while acting in love! May you shine God's love all around you!

In Christ,
Cathy

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