

A Cathedral of Trees

"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20



Just a few weeks ago, I was in a small, remote sugar cane village in the Dominican Republic with a group of college baseball players, a college baseball coach and two SCORE International missionaries. The purpose of our visit, or so I thought, was to simply distribute some food to families who eat sometimes once every three days. Our group chose to purchase enough food to feed the village families for four days. Many young men as well as entire families gathered to meet our bus; jobs are not available for these people; not an automobile was seen in the entire village. But, Pastor Manny Tucen—a former Dominican baseball player—has a "heart" for church planting and had begun a small church in this village.

Manny had his "congregation" sitting on plastic chairs, on the ground and standing under two very large shade trees that offered a shady, breezy comfortable area to learn about God's Word. These very poor people greeted us with warm gracious smiles; and even though it was in the middle of the afternoon in the middle of the week, young and old alike were gathered under the trees to worship God. Bob Silvanik, one of my former players, was asked to give his testimony and Manny translated his words. It was blessings for me to hear one of my former players preach with such power and conviction.

I remember the children and their infectious laughter, the mothers and grandmothers and their warm shy smiles and a few of the men standing on the perimeter. But what I remember the most was the joy and peace I felt in this poor, malnourished congregation.

Two emaciated dogs darted in and out of the small crowd; a couple of proud roosters pecked at the dry hard ground, and a few scrawny goats tried to graze in the sparse grass around us. A dark rain cloud began to form as Bob preached and I asked Pastor Manny what would happen if it rained. He simply shrugged his shoulders and said, "There is no home large enough to house this many people so, we stop worshipping." He wants to build a church—an open air structure with a concrete floor, a roof and pews—for this small village. We want to help him. It will probably cost around \$15,000 to complete this project. Please pray for this special congregation and Pastor Manny.

Keith Madison

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The true worshipers will worship the Father
in spirit and truth,
for they are the kind of worshipers
the Father seeks.
John 4:23



Prayer Requests

****If you have an update on any of these prayer requests, please contact me!**

- Mary-Louise, daughter of John Pawlowski—the Head Coach at Auburn Univ. She is 14 and being treated for a rare malignancy. PNET.
- Scott Berry and his family need prayer after the death of his wife, Laurie, to cancer.
- SCORE Vice President John Zeller and his family need prayer: their three young granddaughters have been diagnosed with epilepsy; the youngest toddler has also been diagnosed with Juvenile diabetes
- Barry Gorham—close friend of Keiths—son, Matt was diagnosed with a malignant tumor around his hamstring.
- Zachary Holland had his left ankle amputated from injuries while serving in Iraq.
- Kurt Umbarger, a former Murray State player, severed his spinal cord in a fall from a tree stand. He is paralyzed from the neck down.
- Haitian people & those helping them recover from the 01.12.10 earthquake.
- College Umpire Jim Jackson's wife is battling breast cancer.
- Dr. JoAnne Gill (family dentist of Univ. of Dayton head baseball coach) is battling stage 4 breast cancer.
- The wife of Sam Holbrook (ML Umpire), Susie, has cancer. Please pray for her recovery.
- Brandon Webbs grandfather has been bedbound for a year & is ready to go home to the Lord.
- Spencer Wilson, young basketball player in NC, has a recurrence of cancer.

Opportunity:

—Do you golf or know people who play golf? Our second fundraising golf tournament—the Austin Kearns Celebrity Golf Classic is Oct 11th. Please to the tournament website and learn more (www.austinkearnsgolf.com).

—Its not too early to make plans for the November Baseball Outreach in the Dominican Republic (**November 14th-18th**). Dust off the passport and serve with us as we conduct free baseball clinics for over 6,000 Dominican boys. For more information give me a call or go to our website:

www.scorebaseball.org

News:

—Check out our personal website www.scorebaseball.org

—My wife, Sharon, writes devotionals for coaches wives and friends. If your wife would be interested in receiving her bi-weekly devotionals, please contact me, **We need her name and e-mail address**

—SCORE International has many opportunities for short term mission opportunities through competition and conducting clinics in the Dominican Republic. Please contact me if you are interested in being blessed and being a blessing to others through international competition or clinics. keith@scorebaseball.org or 859.858.4935