

# GAMBOA UNION CHURCH

GAMBOA, PANAMA

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[www.gamboaunion.com](http://www.gamboaunion.com)

FEBRUARY 2013 KIDS EVERYWHERE! We have never had so many kids show up for our annual program called SAMARITAN'S PURSE.

Samaritan's Purse was started by Billy Graham's son, Franklin, several years ago as a ministry to children in third world countries. The plan was for children in North America to pack a shoe box full of items that a child in another country would like. It was to be label for a girl or boy and the age group. Then it was to be wrapped in Christmas paper and sent as a gift for a child in time for Christmas.

We became involved in the program on the receiving end over ten years ago. The first year the containers loaded with hundreds of these boxes arrived in time for Christmas at the port. But the customs people had never seen anything like this and couldn't make a decision about what to charge and who to charge. Finally, the president's wife in Panama went to the port and "made it happen."

The boxes never arrived in time for Christmas programs, so the churches celebrate this special event in February. There is a full program with singing, games and gospel presentation. A booklet is given to each family to explain the "Greatest Gift of All"..... then the kids get their boxes. Some boxes have the names and addresses of the people who packed the boxes and we try to write them all to let them know where their box went.

But this year was different. One of the YWAM couples moved to a location closer to a Wounaan Indian Village to work with the people. They wanted to bring a bus load of 50 kids (plus some adults) to this program. They had never seen the Panama Canal with its large ships and all the excitement.

So the nearby kids began to arrive and the church which holds about 100 was filling up. We had learned earlier than our regular and talented clown was sick! So some YWAM staff were ready to do the program. Then the bus of 50 kids arrived! They had been on the bus for well over an hour and wanted to use the bathrooms.

But we had a problem. Twelve tour buses just down the road had been waiting for over an hour for the tour boat to arrive....and these "super citizens" also needed bathrooms. Earlier I had offered the use of the church to them. Now they were coming. To make matters more interesting, the people were from Germany, Poland and Estonia and knew very little English and no Spanish.

The Wounaan children couldn't understand why all these older people wanted to use the bathrooms when they had such needs. It took a lot of understanding and patience. What a picture!

Then the program began. God did some wonderful work in the lives of many of the adults who had come with the children. Everyone was encouraged at the close to follow in prayer to give their lives to the Lord. Only God knows what took place in their hearts.

Then it was time to give out the packages. The kids were so excited but everything was well planned. There were kids everywhere on the church lawn. And then it happened....another commercial bus arrived and twenty-five more kids and adults got off! It was like having the bread multiply to feed the masses but in this case it was shoe boxes. We did have enough and all left very happy. The last group totally missed the program but we did have enough booklets for all of them.

Thank you for your prayers and support so ministry like this can happen. Tax deductible gifts can be sent to: Mrs. Sydney Corbett; 231 SE 45<sup>th</sup> Terrace; Ocala, Fl 34471-3224 In His Service, Bill