

The view from
This Little Row in the Lord's Vineyard

Wishing you Happiness & Joy in the coming Christmas Season!



Michael & Anita

Dominican Republic ~ December 2013 ~ Number 111



Anita was back-pedaling across the floor as Rossy and Maxi taunted her, teasing her about her hair color, her pale skin, her funny accent ... occasionally poking her or pulling her hair. It was unpleasant. It was unpleasant each of the five times that we did it.

We tried to make the [life skills program](#) relevant for 7th and 8th graders. "*Peace on Earth*" is all good and well, but bullying and strife in the classroom, on the playground, in the streets, or at home is a lot more important to these young people. Anita's "victimization" occurred as I was talking about the importance of getting involved. I watched as the young people's attention rapidly shifted to the drama unfolding behind me.

When we asked if situations like our example occurred in their lives, every single student had stories to tell. More importantly, they talked about how the victims might feel, and shared ways that they might intervene to put a stop to the bad behavior. Some students had examples of things they had done and we offered additional strategies to intercede. Some students chose to act out some anti-bullying and anti-violence scenarios.

After that session at one of the school sites, a guidance counselor said, "Thank you! Thank you! We have had so many problems with bullying recently." She was inspired to run some sessions for other classes in the school with the help of our student group.

Many students identified Anita getting bullied as one of the "best" activities in the nine week program. Not that they liked seeing Anita bullied ... but that it lead to some very useful understandings and practical actions for them. "Peace on Earth" one bully at a time.

Keep praying, Michael

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OWN SUPPORT.**

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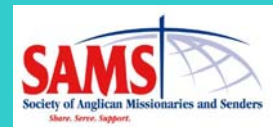
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