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## Ministry Update

January 2012

Happy 2012 to all of you! 2011 was an unbelievable year and GOD has taught us so much. Starting off the New Year we wanted to bring you up to date with our ministry and also a new addition to our family!!!

No, we are not having another baby, but when we went on our last Missions trip with SCORE at the end of 2011, GOD put another orphan girl on our hearts. In addition to our first sponsor child Nayali, GOD brought Esther (or Miley as she likes to be called) into our lives. Miley is 14 and she has been at Sonja's House (the orphanage name) since she was 13 months old. She really made an impression on us, and Colin and I were able to spend two afternoons with her and Nayeli. Here is a picture of Miley and Nayeli with Colin and I. While Nayeli wants to be a hair stylist, Miley wants to be a chef. That is great, because we love to eat.



This last trip was really special because in addition to Nikki and Colin coming to the Dominican Republic, we also had 2 teens from our home church (Northside) that also served with thousands of Dominican children. Here is a picture of Colin with Northside's own Eric Hertel and Dan Mazza-O'Brien. Both Eric and Dan served with our baseball ministry while overseas. When I asked Dan how his first missions' trip with SCORE went, he said "Sharing the love of Jesus and His message of salvation through baseball is an experience I will never forget and have been blessed richly by. I hope to experience this many, many more times." What a blessing to be able to serve GOD in our community and in far off lands with brothers in CHRIST from Syracuse.



Our Immigrant soccer league is getting ready for its second season in just a few months. With so many more immigrants and new communities interested in what GOD is doing through S.U.S.A. (Syracuse United Soccer Association) we are expecting to expand from 8 to 12 teams this year. We have even been able to form some really great relationships with local groups in support of our community that are looking to help with the league. The head coach/and a Somali community leader called me a few days ago to tell me how excited "his people" were getting about the 2012 season. I asked him what they missed most about the off-season this winter and his reply was, "we of course miss playing soccer, but mostly we miss our new friends". How great is GOD that here in Syracuse, our Somali coach misses Americans, Sudanese, Burmese, Iraqis, Bhutanese, Liberians and the Burundi. Here is a picture of Omar, that Somali coach, and me at the end of our first season.



Our 4th season of Upward Basketball & Cheerleading is also here. Practices have just started the second week of January and I am so excited because I get to serve next to the greatest woman of my life, my bride Nikki. She will be coaching our oldest daughter Savannah in Cheerleading (and Emma too, even though she isn't old enough to be on the sidelines), while I once again coach our son Colin in basketball. I look forward to learning all the Upward cheers and have already been working on 2. What a joy to watch and serve along side with my entire family.



## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Continued friendships to be made amongst the immigrant nations here in Syracuse
- For our sponsor girls Nayeli and Miley to continue to walk in GOD's footsteps
- For more teens and family's to come from Northside and this community to serve in missions with SCORE or another of GOD's awesome ministries
- For our children to continue to walk in line with GOD's plan for their lives. "I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in the truth". 3 John 1:4

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