



# The Heart of am

## Transformed Lives

On the small Caribbean island of Hispaniola lies the Dominican Republic (DR). She shares the eastern two-thirds of this tropical island with Haiti. The historic 1492 landing of Christopher Columbus initiated centuries of Spanish domination and medieval Roman Catholic influences. Today, the DR has a complex heritage of Taino Indian, Spanish, French, and African traditions which sets her apart from other Caribbean nations. Evangelical protestantism was introduced in the 19th century, but even today only five percent of the nearly ten million people are evangelical. In general, the 21st century Christian population has a dualistic mindset. Without the knowledge and application of God's Word to all of life, many believers remain in bondage to secular thinking. Over the last two years, Chrystalis has provided six AMO® Worldview Workshops reaching the hearts and minds of church, school, and NGO leaders and teachers. Many AMO® children's programs have been planted in each of these settings and provide us the following inspiring testimonies of God's Hand in the lives of DR children, teachers, and parents.



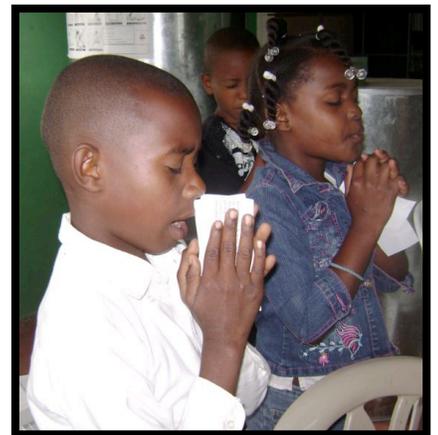
At the age of ten, Fiordaliza had felt the pain of loneliness and bitterness due to a lack of love. Prejudice ran deep in her environment, and the children were very cruel. Her darker skin and uniquely set eyes became a source for harsh attitudes, words, and actions. She was an outcast among her peers. For three years she waited in vain for a

sponsor through Vision Trust. Fiordaliza was heartsick and hopeless. Last year Fiordaliza was selected to participate in an AMO® Program. As her teacher began reading *Heidi*, the children listened attentively. Kindness filled the classroom and prejudice began to melt away. Reading and reasoning with Proverbs gave a foundation for new ideas and personal choices based on God's wisdom. Seeing their place in God's Story opened new avenues to hope and to dream. In just five months, the children saw and understood that "EVERY child is a promise with a name, a passion, a story and a place in His Story." Fiordaliza's hope was restored. She and the girls in her class are now all friends learning and growing in the Word and the love of God. To her great delight, she now has a sponsor!



She was only eight years old when her American mother left her with her grandmother in the Dominican Republic. Living in a strange country far different than her own, she became shy, sad, and lonely. One day while listening to her AMO® teacher reading the story of *Heidi*, her heart was enlightened by the Christian ideals and principles. With a big smile on her face she said, "I am like Heidi and God has a plan for my life, too. Heidi didn't complain when she was taken away from her grandfather and I am not going to complain anymore!" Her life is now filled with confidence, joy, and peace. Her grandmother is thankfully surprised at her transformed character and demeanor.

My life had no love not even for my own children. During the AMO® Workshop, I began to understand that I am unique and designed by God for a specific plan. I have learned to love, and the love for my children has changed my life. When I hear one of them say that they want to be like me, I now know that my life has great value and purpose.



*Dismissal prayer with parent prayer and blessing cards.*

—Participant, AMO® Training

I have learned a great deal from the AMO® Program. I have learned to think, reason, relate and discover. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis deeply impacted me as it compares and relates the life of Aslan to the story of the sacrifice of Jesus, who gave His life for the undeserved. Even my vocabulary has changed. My life is truly in the process of transformation, which I am enjoying very much.

It is very fulfilling to watch the young children and teenagers who attend the program have the opportunity to enjoy learning and playing. AMO® provides activities they have never experienced before. They are learning of God's love for themselves and for each other. They are also beginning to understand that God has a plan and a special purpose for them. These godly principles are changing all our lives!

—Everluz Urbaez, AMO® Teacher, La Meseta

After we dismissed the students, one of the teenagers returned to the classroom. He had taken a pencil, and on his way home he was convicted of his wrong action. He knew this was not pleasing to God and he could not continue his homeward journey until he obeyed God and returned it. He brought the pencil back in a humble and contrite spirit.

—Everluz Urbaez



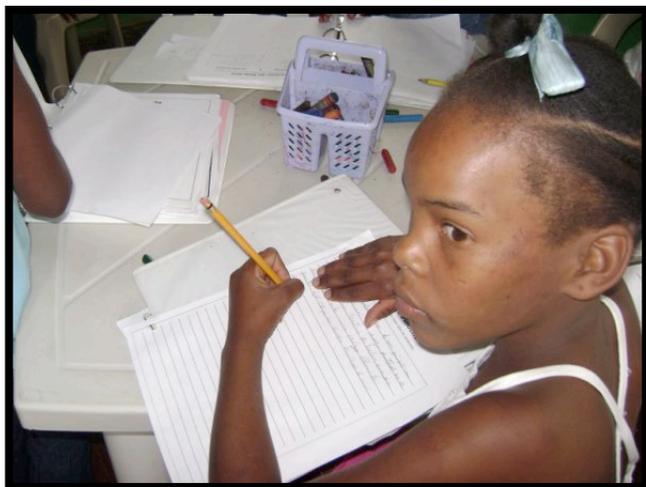
Everluz Urbaez, AMO Teacher

I like the blessing and prayer cards very much. I read them to my parents because they don't know how to read and then we share them together.

—Delfa (Age 11)

## My Psalm of Confidence

One of the assignments from the AMO®  
Book of Psalms Reading for Reasoning Unit



Our teenagers had a dirty vocabulary and a dark imagination. I began teaching the AMO® Timeline of Promise. Their hearts and minds began to be transformed by the power of the Word of God and



*'They are having such fun!  
I want to be in an AMO Program too!*

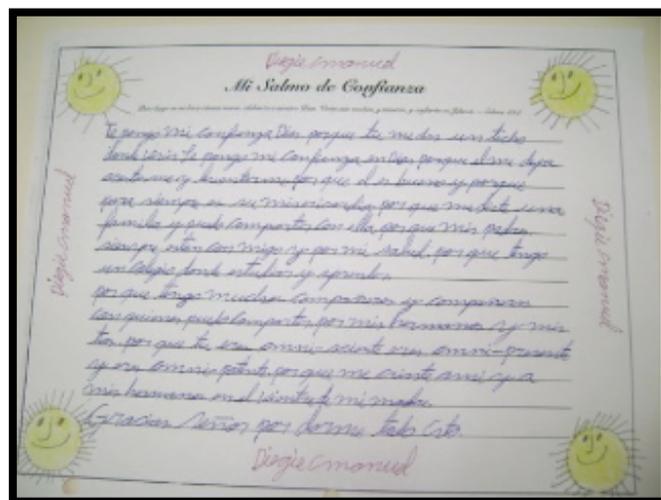
the vocabulary in the enriched stories. The change in their behavior and conversations has been so noticeable that the director of the school approached me to ask what made the difference.

—LAM Private School, Santo Domingo

## My Psalm of Confidence

- 1 Lord, I call to you when I need you.  
You are invincible and you are Almighty.  
I trust you because you created the earth and nature,  
and you are my love and my peace.
- 2 You let me see the sun every day  
and thanks to you I am here.
- 3 I trust you because you are just and truthful  
and you are sweeter than honey.
- 4 I trust you because you are Almighty, omnipresent,  
and omniscient.
- 5 You created my mother and my father and my whole family.
- 6 You are special, and if I hide from you,  
you know where I am.
- 7 You give joy to my heart if I am sad
- 8 And when I look to you.  
You are the Almighty and my only love.

—Nicole 5<sup>th</sup> Grade (Age 11)



# GROWTH OF AMO® IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN TWO YEARS



	INSTITUTIONS	NAME	LOCATION	NUMBER OF AMO GROUPS
	<b>NGO'S</b>			
1	Food for the Hungry	La Meseta	Elias Piña	4
2		Margara	Invivienda	4
3	Esperanza	Colegio Mahanaim	Los Alcarrizos	3
4		Colegio Tu Hogar Cristiano	San Pedro de Macoris	6
5	World Vision		Villa Altagracia	4
6			Jimani	2
7	Vision Trust	Seeds of Hope	Brisas del Este	7
8	Hay Poder en Aprender		Manoguyabo	4
	<b>SCHOOLS</b>			
1		Colegio La Trinidad	Santo Domingo	5
2		Colegio Federico Froebel	Santo Domingo	6
3		Colegio Santa Teresita	Santo Domingo	4
4		Colegio Bautista Cristiano	Santo Domingo	1
5		La Vega Christian School	La Vega	5
6		LAM School	Santo Domingo Este	4
	<b>CHURCHES</b>			
1		Iglesia Las Caobitas	La Caobita	1
2		Iglesia Bautista Internacional	Santo Domingo	20
3		Ministerios Elim	Santo Domingo	1
4		Iglesia La Trinidad	Santo Domingo	2
			Total AMO Programs	83



Wherever God has providentially arranged your life in the AMO® story, whether you're a teacher, a director, a parent, a donor, a prayer warrior, a curriculum writer or translator; let us proclaim together, "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes." (Psalm 118:23)

Thank you for your commitment, dedication, and love for the Truth and for your investment in the next generation!  
May God continue to bless you abundantly,  
Jacqi Gough

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