

ENGAGING DISCIPLESHIP

Open My Eyes, My Heart, My Hands MARK 10:46-52

America for Christ Offering 2012

Coming Alongside a Community in Need

By the Rev. Yamina Apolinaris



Each year, Corporación Milagros del Amor (CorMA)—“Miracles of Love Corporation”—Caguas, Puerto Rico serves more than 200 homeless individuals with a comprehensive program to support their transition from homelessness to sufficiency. CorMA is one of 17 Neighborhood Action Program (NAP) Christian centers supported by gifts to America for Christ.

After a long day of searching in March 2011, CorMA’s staff found the perfect place—now known as “Vereda del Rio”—to transform into a residential home for individuals in the program. It took special eyes to see the possibility of the home, which was windowless, vandalized, weed-covered, debris-filled and without running water.

Now refurbished, it captures the attention of passersby and provides CorMA staff with the opportunity to share more about the ministry.

Hired for painting and construction, two former participants of CorMA’s drug-and-alcohol recovery program have contributed to the home’s rehabilitation. Previously homeless, both now live in the home.

When Vereda del Rio’s purpose was revealed, neither worker wanted to be paid. “I am where I am because you gave me an opportunity,” each said. “This home is for people who are in the same place I was just a few months ago.” It was as if they were saying, “I now can see, and I want to help others to see!”

For more information about NAP Christian centers, visit www.abhms.org > Ministries & Programs > Caring Ministries > Neighborhood Action Program or contact the Rev. Lisa R. Harris, national coordinator, ABHMS Justice for Children Initiative and Christian Center Relations, at lisa.harris@abhms.org or 1-800-222-3872, x2158.

The Rev. Yamina Apolinaris has been executive director of CorMA since 2004.

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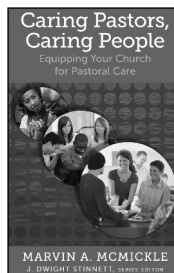
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