

## *Missions to the Dominican Republic August 2020*



What different days we are living in! Ministry and life in general have changed so much in these past few months. I don't believe there is a single one of us that could have seen this coming. Yet here we are and God is still on the move! We have officially lived in the Dominican Republic for a full year now. We stand in awe of everything the Lord has done in this past year. The one lesson we have learned is to not make plans, because God's plan is always better than ours.

The children have adjusted well to life in the Dominican Republic, and the addition of Cielo to our family has made it that much more complete. Hunter has enjoyed learning Spanish and surprising people with his understanding of the language. We are all continuing to learn more everyday. Josiah had the hardest time adjusting to the different food here but his taste is beginning to change. Now he even requests food that he used to not like. Jayden still very much enjoys working with his Dad and is happy that homeschooling gives him the flexibility to be able to go. Cielo is about completely fluent in English and has adapted well into the family. It definitely has been a wonderful change seeing little girl dresses and toys in the house.



Right now, with the pandemic, we have continued to be under quarantine. We cannot leave our homes after 7pm during the week and 5pm on the weekends. Churches are allowed to meet one time on Sunday mornings, though children have been highly discouraged from coming. Many of the churches continue to keep up with online services as the numbers of those with Corona are back on the rise. This has not discouraged us from finding new ways to minister. As many of you know, we started a food program ministry.

We first want to thank all that have given and are still

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continuing to give. We have been taking opportunities to pass out food in a way to encourage the Believers here and reach out to the lost. We have taken food and tracts into the neighborhoods close to the churches and spread the Gospel as we also feed their bodies. There is just something about giving a complete stranger 3 days worth of food. It usually takes us a couple minutes to convince them it is completely free for the taking. That then opens the door to explain the free gift of Salvation that Christ extends to all of us. There have been many who have received Christ as their salvation during this time. We have also been able to give Bibles to these new believers. Thank you to all who gave the money for them and made that possible.

We were also able to take a truck load of \$600 worth of food out to two churches in Santiago. The pandemic has made traveling difficult. Praise the Lord we finally were able to go. We would not have been able to take so much if it was not for the new work truck!



One lady had no food in her house for a day and no way of receiving food or money in the future. Many jobs have been lost and business shut down because they could not remain open during the quarantine.

In the morning she cried out to God and that afternoon we were able to provide her with food, unaware of how bad her situation was. This is not

the only time God has led us to just go take food to someone and when we get there they begin to thank God and tell that they had just run out of food and did not know where their next meal was coming from. The food program is also a way that God has begun to soften hearts. There are some that we have been praying God would open the door so they would be more accepting of the Gospel. In one particular family, the granddaughter was beginning to spend time with us,

before the pandemic, and the grandma would beat her if she found out that she was at our house. So we used this time to show love to the grandma and family. The first time we took food over the grandma broke down and cried. Now she has a huge smile on her face when she sees us and we have had the opportunity to minister the words of the Gospel to her. These are just a few of the many



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ways God has been using the food program. Even as I wrote this newsletter, Jeff texted to bring a tract and a Bible and we were able to share the Gospel with a neighbor. His conversation with the neighbor started by talking about the food program. Please continue to pray for the new souls that are being saved even as you read this.

Jeff has started back into working on the churches as the hardware stores are just now starting to open back up. He was able to begin to repair the back patio roof at the Villa Lora church. It is where they hold the children's Sunday School. We also had a family work day and cleaned up the back area of the church. The children had a blast getting their hands dirty and pulling up weeds and rocks. We are hoping to tackle more projects as we can find the material. We were able to buy a truck for working here. Thank you to all those who gave money to make it possible! Finding the truck alone was a praise report and even more so that all of it is paid for. Praise the

Lord!



All support and offerings can be sent to:

**MEA Missions, P.O. Box 72, Ceres, NY 14721.**

Please mark it for Jeff Eastman in the subject line.

MEA Mission Online Giving: <https://meaministries.org/mea-missions>

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