

Missions to the Dominican Republic

Nov.

2019



We made our entrance in the Dominican Republic August 27, 2019 and it has been an amazing journey since. We came to the DR with the intentions of helping with church repairs and expansions, and to be a help wherever else needed. We have found that there is more than enough work to go around. The first few weeks were filled with getting settled and figuring out how to live in the DR. We needed to furnish our home since it was an empty house on the inside with only the floors and bathrooms being finished. Jeff's father, Dave Eastman, came along for those first few days to help get us settled. He helped us find items that we needed such as a vehicle, beds, stove, frig and other large necessities. We did all that shopping with four children in tote. It was interesting to say the least. Our kitchen sink was just finished last week so the dishes were washed for 2 and a half months in tubs that Dave so graciously bought for us. While we now have closets we do not have kitchen cupboards. Everything moves at a much slower pace here.

There are many differences living in the Dominican Republic. Gas prices are one of them. It cost \$4.10 a gallon. Bananas, tangerines, and mangos are currently 10 for a \$1. Pineapples are \$1 a piece. Bread is \$2 a loaf. A small watermelon is \$3. There are some things that you cannot buy here at all. We have some very different trees in our backyard such as papaya, banana (which we just planted), lemon, cherry, almond, and a plant that makes a delicious tea. God has blessed us with an overabundance of papayas. We have cherished the opportunity to be able to share our papayas with the neighbors around us.



We are currently working on two major building projects with the churches. In Los Pomos, we are cleaning up the empty lot beside it and building a 20 X 20 metal framed tin roof added on to the side of the church with a gravel floor. This will be used for Children's Sunday School. This is a great need since there are so many children coming

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to church hungry for the Gospel. As one of our first projects, we also put two coats of grey rustoleum the main roof this church. Our other current project

is at the church in Villa Lora. We have already replaced all the bad tin on the main roof of the church. In addition, added two coats of rustoleum on to the roof. The upper cement structure, in the front and back of the church, was also repaired. There is an addition on the back of the church that needs restored. It is being used for our Dominican Overseers office and in much need of repair. This is just the start of many more projects to come that we will keep updated in the newsletter.

Our hearts have been pulled in the way of Children's Ministry, as we have been aiding



the churches and encouraging them to reach out to more children. We have our own crew that had begun to come to church with us on a regular basis. We have about 4 to 6 children that ride along with us. In a country that is never on time, these children always show up 30 minutes before they are supposed too! Their excitement is simply contagious. Jesus said we are to be as a city on a hill whose light shines for all to see. Our desire is for all these children to follow Jesus now and into their adulthood. God is also opening up opportunities for Jayma to preach at different churches. Jeff translates the sermon into spanish as she is preaching. God is so good!

Each of our boys send their greetings. Hunter has excitedly jumped into trying as may new and strange foods as he can. His current favorite is chicken feet and chinola (passion fruit). Josiah has jumped right with helping wash the laundry. We are currently borrowing a Dominican washer till our washing machine is hooked up and it requires quite a few steps. Josiah's love for playing in water has come in handy! Jayden loves homeschooling, because it means he gets to go to work with his Dad. He simply loves working on all the building projects.

We want to thank everyone who is sending in support and praying for us. It is because of your support all of this is made possible. All support can be sent to:

MEA Missions, P.O. Box 72, Ceres, NY 14721. Please mark it for Jeff Eastman in the subject line.

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