

THE *Prater* FAMILY

MISSIONARIES TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Dear Praying Friends and Faithful Supporters,

August - September 2024

"For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth" (Acts 13:47). I would like to mention first of all that our hearts and prayers go out to all those who have been affected by Hurricane Helene. We are praying for God's mercy and grace to help you in your time of need. We started Church services earlier in the month of September. So far, we have had two visitors, praise the Lord! Please pray for the work to grow as we evangelize and canvas our area with the gospel and news of a new Church. There is a great influence of Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses here. Many people have asked us whether we are Mormons or Jehovah's Witnesses. That's not a good thing for more than one reason, but mainly because the people here also see through their wrong teachings. When I tell people we are starting a Baptist Church, most people have never heard of the name Baptist. There are two common responses that we hear from the people when giving out the gospel. Many will say that they used to be a Christian, but now they are not and there is no more hope for them. Others will say that they are afraid to get saved because they believe they are the ones maintaining that salvation and are afraid of losing it. Much of these mindsets stem from the false teachings on eternal security in our area. So there are some barriers for us to overcome. I mention this so that you will know how to help us pray.

Please pray that God begins to break down these walls. It may take some time for that to happen and for us to gain their trust, but through the truth of God's word, I know that God can do that. I have plans for the growth of the Church that, Lord willing, I will reach out to you soon about. As of right now, we are using a room that comfortably seats about 25. We are using it as a half sanctuary/half nursery. There is a space back behind our house that has been my vision for the main area of the Church. It already has a roof over it, but the walls are not enclosed in. We're wanting to construct and to enclose in the area, as well as to do a little bit of work on the Church bathroom. After that we will be installing some lights and a couple air conditioner units. The space should be able to comfortably seat between 75 to 100 people. I've already been in contact with a contractor to come by sometime to give us an estimate on the cost. Everyone is healthy and well, praise the Lord. I did get a touch of pneumonia in August and the cough has lingered even throughout the month of September. God has given grace, and thankfully, I'm doing much better. Four of our boys have started up school, and John has entered his first year of kindergarten. Please pray for Brittany as she tries to balance out her workload while helping the boys with their schoolwork as well as taking care of the other two little ones. My goals over the next two months are to do a lot of evangelizing and getting the word out about our Church. Please pray for wisdom for us in all our decision making, that God would open up the blinded eyes, and for Jesus to be magnified here in Puerto Plata. Thank you for your prayers as we continue to work for the Lord in the Dominican Republic! You are continually in our prayers. We love you and praise God for you all.

In Jesus' Name,

Ethan and Brittany Prater

Enoch, Silas, Jude, John, Ezra, and Azariah



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