

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
*“Glory to God in the heavenly heights,
Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.”*

November 29, 2007

We want to wish each of you and the local congregation a very joyous Christmas season. We are pleased to be able to share with you how the Lord has been faithfully working here in the eastern Dominican Republic. Last month we reported briefly on decisions that were made at the 2007 EDCM board meeting in early October. Some of those have become reality in such a short time that our heads are spinning. Property for the Punta Cana church was found and a significant down payment was made on October 30th. It is only 400 meters from a main road, very near the local high school, with a baseball diamond and a basketball court near by as well. The property has three one-room apartments already constructed on it that will serve as housing for work teams. We have also made a down payment on a large tent that can be set up on the property for evangelistic campaigns, outreaches and teaching. We also have preliminary drawings for the construction of a parsonage, a multi-purpose building, and a sanctuary.

Franklin and Ilonka conducted the first official spiritual outreach there on November 21st. There was a huge attendance by local Christians, curiosity seekers and friends and family of those who are presently studying the Bible Network Series. There is a bar across the street and a questionable business next to the property. So Franklin and Ilonka borrowed some music equipment and a sound system and began injecting God’s Word into this community. We are very pleased that the Francisco family is networking with other Christians in the area and evangelizing those who are receptive. Franklin presented to the EDCM board in October a timeline for the development of the church in Bávaro/Punta Cana. It was amazing how well it connected with the plans that the board was making at that moment. Another reassurance that the Holy Spirit is moving in this new endeavor!

The ladies of the La Romana church are doing a study on the book of Daniel. It has been as excellent as it has been challenging. We tend to think that living in a third-world country there is no temptation to yield to consumerism, image building and self-absorption. Beth Moore points out in this series that no matter where we live we are susceptible to the “Babylonian mentality”.

The La Romana church van is back in the church parking lot where it belongs. The La Romana congregation raised over \$150,000 R.D. initially in order to purchase another vehicle. God blessed their efforts, the stolen van was returned and has now been repaired, painted and put to use again. We are so proud of their initiative and pray that they will continue to faithfully tithe and give to the Lord’s work.

We are so happy to report six more baptisms in the La Romana congregation. Maria Guerrero, Yocasta Sanchez, Margarita Morales, Starlin Sanchez, Manuel Bautista and Eston Marsielle were baptized into Christ on November 25th. That is a total of 16 baptisms this year. Victor and Yudermy are working faithfully to develop the believers in this young congregation into well founded Christian leaders. Together with Victor and Yudermy we are in the process of selecting elders. In January there will be two days of workshops for those who are candidates plus several weeks of additional study before any official installation is conducted. Please be praying for this important step in church development as they transition from a leadership team to an eldership led congregation.

We were able to travel to the National Missionary Convention in Cincinnati November 15th through the 18th. We got to the area in time to travel to Ironton, OH which is Suzanne’s home town (about 2 ½ hours away). We spoke with Jim Williams, the new minister at Central Christian Church there in Ironton and spent a little while at the cemetery. Suzanne doesn’t have a relative now living in Ironton, but many friends and brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Parkside Christian Church in Cincinnati had a wonderful dinner and activity on Wednesday evening ending with a time of prayer for the missionaries that they support. We had several meetings while at the convention, but still had time to look at the many displays and reconnect with friends and co-workers from years past. It is so encouraging to see God using a wide variety of people and ministries in a variety of countries and locales in order to connect the lost with His Word.

“Friends, keep up your prayers for us. Greet all the Christians there with a holy embrace. And make sure this letter gets read to all the brothers and sisters. Don’t leave anyone out. The amazing grace of Jesus Christ be with you!”
1 Thessalonians 5:26-28 *The Message*

In Christ,
Rick and Suzanne York
Missionaries with Eastern Dominican Christian Mission
