



# Eastern Dominican Christian Mission

Planting Self-Sustaining Churches in the Eastern Dominican Republic

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Dear Friends,

We would like to thank all of you for your calls and emails after the recent earthquake in Haiti. We are so far east on the island that no one was aware of the quake until evening when we heard it on the news. Some shaking was felt closer to the border, but there was no significant damage in the Dominican Republic. There are many U.S. and Dominican medical teams going as far as the border and the injured are being brought across. Several of the Drs. who work at the Centro Mutualista clinic are participating and so we have a secure way to send food, clothing etc. Please continue in prayer. The need in Haiti is so great it's impossible to grasp.

## Medical Clinic Update

Since Eastern Dominican Christian Mission started helping administer the Centro Mutualista where the La Romana Christian Church meets, a lot has been accomplished. God started immediately to change hearts, minds and attitudes. The list is long, so here are some highlights.

1. Financial restructuring that directs all funds through one central office.
2. Large donation of medical supplies from nearby Good Samaritan Hospital.
3. Increased patient flow.
4. IDES donation to seal the large, flat poured-cement roof. No more leaks!
5. Parking area repaved to facilitate traffic flow.
6. Employees and bills are being paid on time.
7. Administrator, Trinidad Cabrera, became a member of the church.
8. The La Romana Christian Church has a permanent home at its present location.

The biggest goal for 2010 is to get the medical clinic up to the standards of the local insurance providers so that people who have health plans can use them at the Centro Mutualista Medical Clinic. That will of course attract a larger clientele and increase the income.

## Work Teams

We have already hosted two work teams this year. A wonderful group of students from Cincinnati Christian University arrived on Dec. 31st and celebrated New Year's Eve with the La Romana congregation. They did some work on the parking lot and did two Bible Club activities with the children in La Romana and Punta Cana. Andrew Butz, missionary recruit, led the team and then immediately returned to language study in San Jose, Costa Rica. Andrew will be returning at the end of the year to head up the development of a camp/conference center. A group of hard-working adults representing Hope Missions from Cogan's Station, PA finished the work on the parking lot, scraped the ceiling in the center, built shelves for supplies and did a variety of repairs. The nurses helped organize the large donation of medical supplies as well as doing blood pressure and blood sugar screenings for church members and the general public. They are also working in some of the nearby *bateys* (Haitian cane cutting villages) in cooperation with the Good Samaritan Hospital. The multi-purpose building in Punta Cana now has protective grill work on the windows and the floor tiles and windows will be installed soon. God is good!

## VandeLinde's Arrival

Ryan, Erin and Micah VandeLinde arrived on Jan. 13th to begin their missionary careers. They are busy helping us host work teams as they set up to live permanently in the Dominican Republic. The transition has been exceptionally smooth. They have an apartment, appliances, phone and internet service. They are just waiting for the electric to be turned on. Thank you for your prayers on their behalf. Praise the Lord for young people like them who want to dedicate themselves to the spread of the gospel message!

In Christ,  
Rick and Suzanne