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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear «Sab»,

* We wish you lots of joy this Christmas season. God bless you all and thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support during this past year. In spite of difficult economic times, EDCM and the churches here in the Dominican Republic continue to move forward. God is in control and we praise Him for His direction and provision.

* The La Romana congregation ended the month of November by honoring the children's Sunday school. Each child who regularly participates in Sunday school was given a certificate and a treat. Those who were ready to move up to another class dressed in togas and mortar boards and received diplomas. There were more that 100 children honored that day and many parents made their way to church for the first time to see their children "graduate".

* The Leadership class, that is being conducted by the elders of La Romana each week, has more that 20 participants and will continue for several more weeks. Christmas dinners at Punta Cana on December 12 and in La Romana on the 19th were well attended and all of us ate well.

* We conducted a two day Financial Planning workshop/ outreach at the church in Punta Cana. In the month of December most employees receive a bonus that is a huge blessing for them at Christmas time. The church hopes that having some clear information and some simple tools for financial planning will be of help to everyone Christian and non-Christian.

* We are very pleased that our younger daughter Laurie is spending the holidays with us here in the Dominican. She will finish her Master's degree in Social Work in May. Our older daughter Emily and her husband Ryan Hughes will be moving to Libya on January 1. They have jobs with AE-COM, an engineering/architectural/construction company. They both have MAs in third world economic development and are thrilled to have this opportunity. They will be a long way from Seattle where they have been living.

Eastern Dominican Christian Mission

Planting Self-sustaining Churches in the Eastern Dominican Republic