

Hispániola Happenings

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Spring 2025

“On that day it will be said” “Look, this is our God; we have waited for Him and He has saved us. This is the Lord; we have waited for Him.”

Isaiah 25:9

Dear Family,

I have been reading through Isaiah during this Lent season and though this is by far not my first time in this book of Scripture, I am struck this time around by the repeated contrast of prophesied judgement interspersed by hopeful promise after hopeful promise. The Savior is coming...peace is coming...the Day is coming: the Day when God will make everything right again. Just when I start to grow numb from all the pronounced judgement against the idolaters and violence another verse of future hope and joy pops up, pulling me back in.

This trip of ours to the Dominican Republic felt like that. It has felt to me, since the unrest began in Haiti six years ago, like we have just been floating in limbo. The daily news of the situation worsening only served to eventually numb me...a defense mechanism...the heart can only take so much. And so much that I loved about my job since moving back to the States was just taken away, almost overnight. The planning of trips, the prepping and leading of teams, the going back, the reasons to consistently update our supporters...gone. Taking this trip to the D.R. breathed fresh life into me again. Not only because I get to start doing all that again, but because I was reminded that while we've been waiting God has been working.

When my husband was asked what stuck out to him most about our visit (besides the smells and the reckless driving) he said it was the relationships. The way the Dorcés have already made such deep connections with other pastors and church leaders and how they all work together so unitedly and graciously and effortlessly. He put into words exactly what I had been feeling since we got there. It was amazing to see. The people Kiki has built relationships in the D.R. are not only willing to help us get established there, but eager to.

There is no sense of competition or antagonism of any kind. Only encouragement

Please pray:

1. Protection over our people as they serve in Haiti during a time of unrest and danger.
2. For relationships to grow and logistical details in establishing ministry in the D.R.
3. For wisdom and clarity as decisions are made for people in both ministry locations.
4. For funds to bring the vision to fruition in the D.R...property and buildings for church, etc.
5. For peace for Haiti and its people.



and harmony. It was so incredibly encouraging.

Since our trip was mostly a vision trip we didn't have big "doing" plans. We got to sightsee some, went to the beach, checked out the grocery stores to plan for future supply purchases, and tagged along while Wilckly and Dee got errands done. We visited all three churches and sang some songs with the kids, used the flannelgraph to tell Bible stories, made sure everyone wherever we went got some cookies and juice, and Matt got to preach on Sunday morning. But essentially we were just there, present, listening and observing. I tried to be as much of an encouragement to the Dorcés and the rest of the people there as I could by just hearing their stories and their vision. And also began mentally planning and preparing for the Team Leader part of my job to open up again.

It has been almost six years since I felt I could do that (plan) in reference to missions. Nearly six years since I could pass along this passion to others by giving them an opportunity to go, too. I nearly forgot how much I love it. How much I love seeing another's face light up as God is worshipped in another language, the sound swelling up around us like a heavenly chorus. How much I love introducing others to my former home and all its roses, hidden among the thorns. How much I love telling kids who don't hear it that Jesus loves them and they don't have to be afraid. And how much I missed that deeply humbling feeling of being chosen by God to serve Him in such a way. Of being reminded that none of this is about me. It's all about Him.

Statistics say that the average human spends a total of 6.7 years of their life waiting. Sometimes I think that may be a low estimate...but that's probably because I am so impatient. One would think, with all that time waiting, we'd get better at it as time went on. But unfortunately that is not often the case. I certainly feel as though I should have learned the lesson of how to "wait well" by now. What I have learned (or at least am continuously reminded of), however, is that interspersed among the long, hard, waiting stretches, is HOPE. God doesn't keep us in the waiting without reminding us Who He is...and that He is worth waiting for. THAT is what I have learned. The waiting can be so hard. Sometimes...okay, often...we come to realize we have been waiting for the wrong thing. Sometimes it looks like everyone else is getting everything we were promised. But THAT DAY is coming. THAT DAY when we WILL say "This is our God; we have waited for Him and He has saved us." HE. IS. WORTH. WAITING. FOR.





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