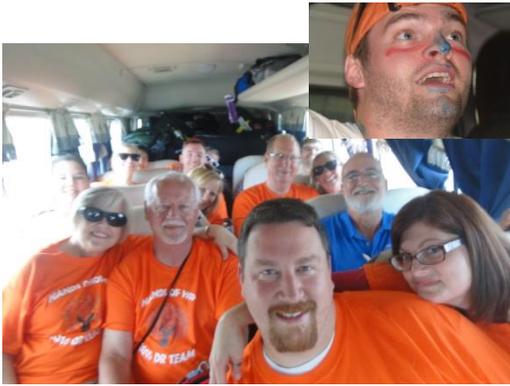


Saturday, June 25, 2016



Dear friends and family in support of our DR mission trip,

We arrive safe & sound in the DR, with luggage! No small deal. Thirteen of us are from High Point Church; representing Crossroads Church are Pastor Doug & Vicki, their 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

Decked out in orange shirts for our travel day, this helps start many conversations with strangers, in which we get to share our mission and the message of Christ. We pray to likewise befriend and connect the gospel with many Dominicans this week in our adopted barrio of El Almirante.

Welcoming us to the DR are four locals who head up this Hands of Hope (HoH) operation in 2016—(L to R) Alex, Marino, Almonte, and Richard.

This represents a transition in HoH leadership from last year; also new in their role as trip leaders are Doug Ready (*above, front & center*) and Brennen Weber (*inset*), both 3<sup>rd</sup> year DR veterans from High Point.

The Acuarium Hotel—luxurious by local standards, with A/C and a pool—



serves as our “second home” for the week. In water volleyball (*at left*), the object is to beat the heat, not each other. We yearn for streams of (cool) living water to flow as freely as the fun and frolic during our break time.

We are hungry, but food can wait this first day. So can packing the 100's of pounds of rice & beans, cooking oil, salami and other staples—which each sponsored child's family will

receive, beginning Monday. That's tons of food for our 57 sponsored kids, who each get home visits, many this week. Kids—and influencing them for Jesus—that's what this mission trip is all about.

This week we also deliver 212 books to replenish the community library that Casey Zynda and our mission partners initiated just last year. These books are mostly donated by the Spanish language class at the Verona (WI) High School. Also among the donations to this fledgling library are one desktop and two laptop computers.

Three days of Vacation Bible School (VBS) are again in the works, to nurture 100's of kids toward faith in Jesus. Six Bible studies in Joshua (a new program for us in 2016) are planned for the many teens (*at right*) who typically hang around the younger kids.

Also new this year is a physical therapy program, with 17 hurting folks already signed-up for Marisa Gordon & Codi Halbur to visit. Marisa and Codi will be teaching others, as well, to carry on the good work and touch people in Jesus' name.

Despite a forecast of daily rain showers, we begin building at least one large house this week, fit for a homeless family of seven who lost theirs in a fire last year.

We could not do any of this without the funds that you donors so generously supply! This work is being done in partnership with Dominicans, who will finish the job after we leave. Hence, our joint project creates jobs.

Can't wait to see what happens in answer to your prayers, as God unveils the hope and a future He has for the good folks here in the Dominican Republic.

- Praise God for His many gifts, including those represented by the new leadership of this team; pray for them to be wise and gracious stewards of their spiritual gifts.
- Praise God for just enough funds to fly us all down here and to purchase the building & educational materials, food, transportation, translators, and hotel housing we will need to carry out our work.
- Pray for God to sustain our health and give us stamina, as well as the ability to flex and pivot, for “in his heart man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps” (Proverbs 16:9).
- “Just as rain comes down from heaven and does not return without watering the earth and making it flourish and sustaining the people with bread to eat, so also is My Word, says the Lord, which will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10-11). *Amen, Adios*

