

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

We are encouraged by Jesus the Master Builder (Luke 14:28-30) to “count the cost” of building to see if we have enough of what it takes to finish what we start. And in the case of our DR mission trip, we count our donor base (thank you!), cash needed (\$8000 USD per house), cinder blocks (at 28 lbs. apiece), lengths of re-bar & tie-



wire, mason workers (6 this year; last year just 2) & cement-making materials—sand, gravel & mix (truckloads).

Many hands (including **Kevin, Femi, Doug, and Doug**) make for light work. On this construction site, “hands of hope” visibly apply God’s hidden hand of blessing in cutting bars of steel to hold the cement-walled rooms and foundational pillars together—which cement is also made by hands shoveling it into buckets and troweling it between concrete blocks stacked high.

Other “hands of hope” make beautiful plates of food that feed 20+ at lunch. One day chicken, next day beef, today spaghetti. Mmmm, good!



Rain leaks through holes in roofs made of corrugated metal (*above, right*). And rain comes often to the DR. Just as houses need solid foundations to withstand adverse elements, so also people in those houses need solid spiritual foundations to withstand whatever life throws at them. Hence, Bibles in Spanish become a treasured gift during home visits, providing nurture and guidance for the soul, just as gifts of basic groceries sustain the body.



Brennen’s sponsored child Adrian eagerly reads John 3:16, even in English (*far left*), while another sponsored family relishes the box of food (rice, beans, salami, sardines, cooking oil, cocoa, milk, and more) that **Lynn** brings on her home visit.

We also revisit the homes of owners who proudly show off bathrooms we built last year. Until the whole community gets hooked up, the health and sanitation concerns persist.

Thanks to a brainchild of **Vicki & Doug** (*below*), a Christian concert and a culturally relevant evangelist engages the community tonight. As the music swells to a crescendo, so does the crowd. Even grown men like **Rick Zynda** (*standing in center*) and women like **Marisa Gordon** sway to the music with youthful hearts. “Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt 18:3). Four “kids” from High Point—**Brennen, Femi, Nellie, Rick** (*L-R*)—were even



moved to take the stage and sing with impromptu help from the band.

Our long day definitely ends on a high note.

Tomorrow we continue with Vacation Bible School and the Teen Bible study in Joshua. It can be challenging to keep kids attention on God’s Word, given their boundless energy and delays in our schedule. The resulting chaos seems worth it. Wednesday night is movie night (*Facing the Giants*); Thursday is the community-wide softball game.



Daily, we praise God and give thanks for you. AMEN.