

## THE VIEW FROM THE CROSS IS A VISION BEYOND BORDERS

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"A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

JAMES 3:18

## TRAVEL UPDATE-DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Poverty and corruption have plagued the Dominican Republic for many years. Seven years ago God called a couple to leave Cuba and establish His kingdom in this place. They were obedient to this call and God miraculously opened doors. The first few years were very difficult. They had 2 children, and now those kids are young people who are dedicated to God's service and to continue the call that God gave to their parents.

God made a way for them to pastor a church in the Dominican Republic which was made up of few older adults. To their surprise the children of the neighborhood began to arrive at meetings and God directed them to focus on working with children. Today they disciple about 70 children!

Now, some of the young people who help care for and teach young children are those who came years ago to the church as children. They are now grown up and are a great support and help to the ministry. It was beautiful to hear how even a Haitian adult who is a guard for the church at night considers the founders of this ministry as "dad and mom." He says that they are parents to many of these children who have grown up without limits, discipline or education.

The pastors told us that many of the children are not cared for by their parents and are considered a burden or a problem. Sometimes the parents do not have the money to feed them with three meals a day. Many of the parents are not yet Christians but the children do not lose faith that their parents may one day come to Christ.



I could see the gratitude these children felt towards the whole team for spending time with them. From grateful hearts they gave us something that they considered special, a toy or a bracelet that they wanted us to keep to remember them. As a young man from the team shared at Sunday's service, "Happiness doesn't come from what we have but from what we give, I believe that this is one of the qualities that a soldier of Christ must have." For many of the young people on the team it was difficult to communicate with the children but as another young team member said, "The love of Jesus speaks louder than words. It stood out to me how difficult and frustrating a language barrier can be but with God's grace His love and joy can surpass and overcome any boundary." The team that Vision Beyond Borders sent to support this ministry was a great blessing in their examples of service, respect, hard work, generosity, and the love of Christ in action for the people in the Dominican Republic.



## BLESSINGS, SILVIA SHETLER

While travel is still very limited, we encourage you to pray about traveling with us in the future!

Weekly Prayer & Praise



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