

Abigail did really well this past year with preschool. Unfortunately, she does not speak much English anymore though she can still understand it.

After multiple trips to Santa Domingo, and much paperwork, Jonathan has finally been able to get his United States citizenship and his passport. Praise God! Alberto and the kids plan to come to the U.S. in August.

We ask for your prayers:



- ? For good physical health.
- ? For safety in traveling from one area to another.
- ? For the Dominican Churches as they continue to grow and meet needs.
- ? For the Lopez family as they prepare to move back to Santiago.
- ? For those who lost loved ones in the floods this past year.
- ? For the construction work on the new Worship Center.
- ? For continued work at the ball field.
- ? For God to provide a replacement for Cristian & Evelin as soon as possible.
- ? For the work teams who are scheduled to come this summer and this fall.
- ? For God to continue to use CDEM to share the Gospel with the people of the Dominican Republic.

In May, there were more devastating floods in the Dominican Republic. While these floods were not in an area near Monte Cristi, about 40 fellow believers lost their lives. Alberto & Cristian attended the burial services for these fellow believers.

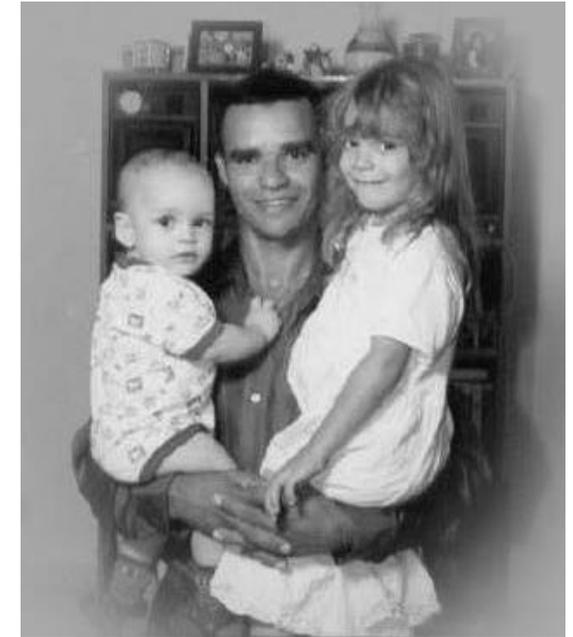
Cristian and Evelin Lopez will be returning to Santiago soon, after serving for two years in Monte Cristi. We are very grateful for everything they have done to get the church going. They will be greatly missed.



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Rivas Review



**Sharing Christ
in the
Dominican Republic**

July 2004

Much has happened since our last newsletter:

- ? In late November, the area around Monte Cristi was devastated with rains which caused much flooding. Many were left homeless.
- ? Alberto and Cristian both opened their homes to many of the victims of the flood.
- ? Alberto was granted \$10,000 from I.D.E.S. in December, in order to provide food for the flood victims. He was able to purchase enough food to feed 200 families for a month. Bibles were also distributed to these people.

- ? Ed Gillespie spent two weeks in the Dominican helping with the distribution of food and taking care of paperwork for I.D.E.S.



Cristian passes out bags of food to flood victims.

- ? Thanks to your generous gifts, a new van was purchased for the ministry in January.
- ? More Bible Studies have begun throughout the area.
- ? Several work teams have visited or will be visiting this year to help with the mission.
- ? Alberto is rebuilding the second story of his home to make it safer.

The church in Monte Cristi is doing well. About 65-70 children attend on Sunday mornings, and about 40 adults attend Sunday evenings along with about 20 children. Along with the Tuesday night study at the Rivas home, and the Saturday study at the ball field, there is one Bible study that meets in different homes, and many individual studies with people interested in learning more about the Gospel.

The mission recently purchased a shelter in Madre (one of the villages most affected by the floods) to use as a church building. They are to begin services there this fall. There has already been one baptism in that area. Doors for sharing the Gospel are opening as a result of the food that was distributed in the time of need. God has used the flood to his glory!

While a work team from Keokuk, IA was there in June, they held a VBS at Madre. About 40 children and 10 parents came. These children had never experienced a VBS before!

For the Sunday morning class, about 37 kids came from the ball field area. To get them all in the van, they loaded the biggest ones first, then the smaller ones piled in, with the smallest child being passed through a window!



The C.D.E.M. Van



The new worship center is well under way. The walls for the first floor are up, and the dirt has been leveled. Now, they are ready to lay rebar and pour concrete for the floors.

The plan is to use the first floor as a living space for groups that come to support the mission, doubling as a Sunday School class area. There are to be a couple of rooms used for dormitories, and a large kitchen designed to be able to support larger groups.

The second floor is to be the sanctuary, with larger windows that will allow a better breeze to keep things cooler and more comfortable.

While work teams help a great deal, the majority of the work is being done by the local church, providing the Dominicans with a sense of ownership and pride.

In January, a woman in the church had a devastating fire, in which she lost her home and two of her three children. Since that time, Alberto has decided to remove the second story of his home and rebuild it with cinderblocks. This will make it safer and easier to escape should the need arise.