

Family News

Abigail is seven and in third grade. She is thankful to have a Christian teacher in school this year. Jonathan attends a new Christian preschool this year which also offers English lessons. He will be four next month. We enjoyed special time with Abigail and Jonathan while they were visiting Grandma and Grandpa in Iowa in August and September.

Please pray for:

- More Dominicans to make a decision for Christ
- The growth of the leaders in the Dominican churches
- Good health for those working with the mission
- Finances to complete the church building in Monte Cristi
- Hector, Alberto's brother
- The opportunity to start a Christian school



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Rivas Review



Sharing Christ
in the
Dominican Republic

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“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever.” Psalm 136:1

We have so many things to thank God for from this past year of ministry in the Dominican Republic. Below we have listed just a few.

CDEM has a great team working along-side of Alberto: Juan and Karol, Santo, Jorge, Derlin and Arismendi.

Santo is serving as the pastor for the church in Madre so we are able to offer more opportunities for the new Christians there to study the Bible.

Work teams from IL, IA, MN and MD have been a huge blessing and encouragement to our mission team this year! We also had Kassie Faber serve as a summer intern.



The Saturday night service for teenagers has grown, and the teens are taking some leadership roles in planning activities.

A combined worship service with the Monte Cristi and Madre churches was a great encouragement to Christians from both churches as well as the work team from MD.

The sports ministry continues to grow, reaching adults, teens and children; men and women; Haitians and Dominicans. We have baseball, softball, soccer, volleyball and basketball.



We now need all three vehicles to transport people from the area by the ballfield on Sundays (and sometimes need an extra trip with one van). We have as many as 70 people attending Tuesday and Thursday evening Bible studies. The people are hungry to hear the Word of God.

We thank God for faithful supporters like you who make this ministry possible!



Church Building Update

Over \$17,000 has been raised for the roof of the church building in Monte Cristi. Praise God for those who have given so generously toward this project. We need \$3,000 more to reach the goal. If you would like to contribute, please include a note with the check designating it for the roof. Thank you!

Mission Leader Highlight

Each newsletter we will be highlighting one of our mission leaders. We will begin with Alberto, founder of CDEM.

Juan Rivas (known to most as Alberto) was born in Moca, DR. At the age of 12, he left a difficult home situation to work in the home of a Seventh Day Adventist family. There, at the age of 16, he taught himself to read so he could read the Bible. He also began attending school for the first time that same year. At the age of 20, Alberto became a Christian following his very first visit to a Christian church in Santiago led by Ramon Gabriel. Alberto went on to train for ministry in Panama and also at Colegio Biblico in Texas.

After preaching with medical clinics for several years, Alberto felt called to plant a church in Monte Cristi. He traveled to Monte Cristi for over a year to lead Bible studies, and then in 2002 he moved there with his family. In 2004, he planted a second church in Madre, a nearby village.