

Greetings from The Dominican Republic

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Riding in the van with the team (photographs by Ben Plikerd, pictured front left)

I'm writing this edition of the CGGC E-news from my hotel room in Hato Mayor, Dominican Republic. This is my first trip to this side of the island (Hispaniola) as I've had the opportunity to visit Haiti numerous times. This is one of the newest fields in the CGGC thanks to the grace of God and the good leadership of Caleb and Christina Acosta, directors of CGGC Latino Ministries. I'm here with a group of leaders from different churches from across the Midwest Region of the CGGC. We're working alongside Pastor Fremio and Evelyn Jimenez who lead the Iglesia Nuevo Comienzo congregation in the mountains above Hato Mayor.

There is much that could be shared from the experience thus far, but I want to offer just a couple of reflections.

The mountain village is small, consisting of about one hundred households. My understanding is that there may be one or two other very small congregations in the area with minimal impact on the community. This is an area where exposure to the Gospel has been minimal at best and the Iglesia Nuevo Comienzo is having a dramatic impact on this community.

People who have never had the opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ are coming to follow Jesus because of the ministry of this congregation. People are moving from darkness to light, lives are being transformed and eternal destinies are being altered because of what is happening through the ministry of this local congregation.



I, like many of you, live in a community where it seems like there is a church building on nearly every corner in every neighborhood of the city. I drive past multiple church buildings on my way to gather with the people of God who are known as College First Church. This week has reminded me that there are places in this world where people simply do not have access to the Gospel, where there is no local fellowship or congregation that will teach them the Good News of Jesus Christ and disciple them in His words, His works and His ways. This is one of those places and I'm so grateful that God is using the CGGC to be a part of the work He's doing here.

Iglesia Nuevo Comienzo has benefitted greatly from an ongoing partnership with the New Beginnings Church of God (MRC). Pastors Mark Smith and Dan Watkins and many others from New Beginnings

have made a significant investment in the work here and it's paying eternal dividends. We need more of these kinds of partnerships between churches in the U.S. and in other places around the globe. I pray that one day every CGGC congregation in the U.S. might have a strategic partnership with a CGGC congregation outside the U.S. Imagine the possibilities of a long-term, ongoing investment and partnership with a congregation outside the U.S. Imagine the fellowship of brothers and sisters from the U.S. and other parts of the world forming life-long friendships as they collaborate together in the work of the Gospel to the glory of God!



Church building under construction



Part of this week's assignments: Setting up an Internet Cafe

Pray for our team the rest of this week. We have much to accomplish and our time here is coming to an end. Pray for me as I bring the word on Sunday, that God might use me to teach His word in a way that would encourage and challenge our brothers and sisters here. Pray that God might raise up more congregations in the U.S. who would respond to God's call to go into all the world by taking the step to partner with a foreign work. Lastly, pray that God would continue to demonstrate His abundant grace to us by leading us into new opportunities to proclaim and demonstrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the good of the world and the glory of God!

Christ's Peace,

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