

August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Hi,

I wanted to send a follow-up thank you for your prayers and support for Piper and me as we went to the Dominican Republic on the mission trip last month – it’s hard to believe we’ve been back for a little over a month now. It really was a blessing to be able to serve God in another country and share a few days in the lives of the people there. We often felt like we were receiving more than we were giving – the people were so welcoming to us and generous with their time and resources, making us meals and providing for our needs. It was such a powerful experience when we worshiped there with them in church, each of us singing together, but in our own native languages, knowing our God hears us all individually... it gave me just an inkling of God’s all mighty sovereignty, knowing that He is the creator of everything – literally the universe, but yet each of us individually across the world are special to Him and that he loves us each so much that He had His Son Jesus die for us to save us!

I’ll share a few photos here to show some of the people we worked with and the projects we did while there...

One group (Piper and I were in this group) worked with Pastor Gary Byrd’s church “Iglesia Bautista Vida Abundante”:



And the other group worked with Pastor Yorbi Silverio’s church “Iglesia Bautista De la Caimito”:



At Pastor Gary's church we helped host a Vacation Bible School for the children in the mornings (in the first photo Piper is taking a turn reading a Bible story to the children with a local translator next to her, and in the second photo I am giving high-fives to the children as they move on to the next part of the VBS):



And then at Pastor Gary's church in the afternoons, we worked to help build classrooms on the second floor (in the first photo, Piper is taking her turn on the shovel and I'm helping pass up the buckets filled with the sand/dirt mixture for the mortar):



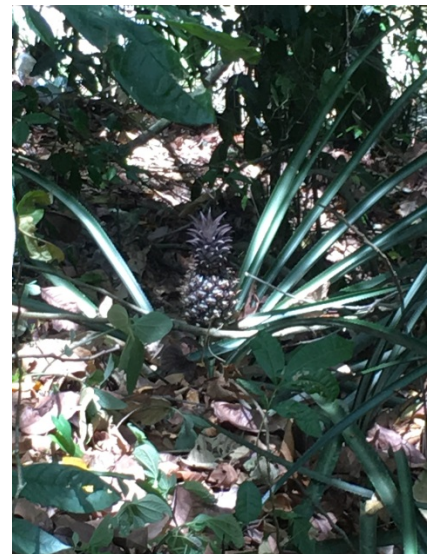
The other group at Pastor Yorbi's church had a similar schedule, but they worked on church projects (painting, etc.) in the mornings and had a VBS in the afternoons:



From our hotel balcony, we could see locals selling fresh fruit in the mornings (some of our group went down to buy bananas and pineapples which they shared with us and they tasted amazing):



On our last day in the Dominican Republic, they took us on a short hike to swim and see some beautiful water falls; we even spotted a wild pineapple growing along the path (I don't know why I used to think they grew on trees instead of on the ground):



Please continue to pray for these children (several of whom came forward asking to know more about Jesus and how to be saved!) and the churches in the Dominican Republic that they would be blessed and continue to grow and spread God's Word to the people there.

In Christ's Love and Service,

