



Dan, Barbara, Natalia & Noah Woodring



March 2021

THE WINDS OF CHANGE ARE BLOWING

KOINONOS is an outreach of Tipton Baptist Church and is governed by an independent advisory board.

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Two High School Graduates

Natalia finished high school in June 2020 but after her graduation ceremony was cancelled twice due to Covid, we decide to hold our own ceremony for her and her closest friends at our house in December.

Noah completed his high school education online through Christian Academy of America last month and we will be holding a small graduation ceremony for him soon as well.

Natalia is planning to attend Cairn University in the fall and Noah will take a year off to decide what he will do with his life post high school. In order to smooth Natalia's transition back to the U.S. and get her ready for college, Barb and the kids will be returning to the U.S. in June. Dan will be joining them for a few weeks in August, just before Natalia goes off to college.

New Home

Since we have committed ourselves indefinitely to life and ministry in the Dominican Republic, we have been asking God to provide us with the opportunity to purchase a home of our own. God miraculously provided the financing for us to purchase a home in the rural area where we have been wanting to live. It is a fixer-upper that requires a lot of work, but we are hoping to have it ready to move into by the end of March.



Possible New Mailing Address

The main reason we have been holding off on sending a prayer letter is because we were hoping that the issues that Agape Flights has been having with the Dominican government would be resolved. Agape is a ministry that provides mail service for missionaries. The Dominican government has been refusing to give Agape Flights permission to land in the Dominican Republic. We have only been able to receive and send mail 4 times since March 2020.

My parents will be mailing this letter out on our behalf. However, if the problems with Agape are not resolved soon we will need to find an alternative mail service. **For the time being, please do not mail anything important to us through the Agape Flights address, since we do not know when we will receive it.**

MINISTRY UPDATE

Pastor's Family from Haiti

We have had the joy of helping a Haitian pastor and his family make the transition from life and ministry in Haiti to the Dominican Republic. They had to leave Haiti because their lives were in serious jeopardy and we offered for them to live with us while we helped them get their own place and become established. They lived with us the entire month of January, and in February we were able to help them rent and furnish an apartment nearby.

They are pursuing many options of ministry with Haitians in the Santiago area, and he is teaching in a Haitian seminary in Santiago. The first two months kept Dan pretty busy with helping them get settled, receive needed medical care, however they have now become very self-sufficient and have transitioned well to life in the Dominican Republic. Please keep this family and the country of Haiti in your prayers.

Leadership / Theological Training

Now that the Covid curfew has eased up a bit, Dan is beginning to prepare for the "Bible Training Center for Pastor's" classes. The leadership of the Jacagua Church has agreed to host and participate in this training program. The specific times for the classes have not yet been determined, however, it is a 4 year commitment requiring 2-3 hours of class per week. Please pray that God would use these classes to strengthen the local church and to prepare men and women for His service.

Funding for Church Planters

As we have previously mentioned, Dominican Churches are already supporting one full-time church planting family and are in the process of trying to raise additional funds to be able to support more full-time church planters. We would love to raise \$600 / month in order to help them with this endeavor. God has already provided \$100 / month in support for this project, would you prayerfully consider helping us reach this goal? We only need \$500 / month more to help the Dominican church send out 2 new, full-time church planters.

La Canela

Ministry in La Canela has been very difficult this last year. Strict curfews have prohibited us from having our weekly services and Bible studies, which we normally held Sunday afternoons and Tuesday Evenings. Because of the distance we have to travel to get there, we could not hold the regular services and be home by curfew. We have stayed connected as much as possible with the faithful few through Zoom and occasional visits, but it is hard to keep a ministry going when you cannot gather to fellowship. Praise the Lord that due to the curfews being relaxed, we can begin gathering for services again next week.

We have also not been able to find a suitable lot for sale. Therefore we have decided to go back to our original idea of building a lean-to on borrowed property. The shade of the mango tree is not enough, and we have to cancel every time it rains.

Thank you for your faithful prayers. Because of you, God has sustained us and the ministry in the Dominican Republic throughout this very difficult year.

In His Service,

Dan, Barbara, Natalia, & Noah Woodring

Prayer Requests:

- Completion of permanent residencies for Barbara & kids
- Language acquisition and cultural adjustment for Barbara & kids
- Spiritual guidance for our family & ministry
- Natalia's transition back to life in the U.S. and college
- Wisdom for Noah in deciding plans for future
- Church planting team and ministry in La Canela and Mao
- Pastor / Church Planter Training Program
- Provision of support for new church planting families