



**Dan, Barbara, Natalia & Noah Woodring**



**June 2020**

## ***Closed Borders, Open Doors!***

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

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We continue to be amazed at how God turns tragedy into triumph and chaos into a perfectly orchestrated plan. Because of your faithful prayer and support, that is exactly what God has done in the last 3 months. On March 15th the Dominican government put the country on lock-down. All borders, airports, and ports were closed and a strict stay-at-home effort and curfew were implemented nationwide. Many missionaries decided to leave the country, but we trusted that God had brought us here for just a time as this.

Life and ministry have drastically changed, but opportunities to minister abound. God has continued to provide opportunities for us to deepen our relationships with our neighbors and help the Dominican church be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ to their neighbors as well. With great needs also come great opportunities!!!

Many Dominican families struggle to put food on their tables in good times, and the needs have greatly intensified due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of you, we have been able to help the Dominican church provide food to almost 200 families in 4 impoverished communities. Most importantly, the Gospel was presented to each recipient and the local churches will be following up with each of those households once the restrictions in the country are loosened.



Last Sunday was the first week churches were allowed to have limited services, so a big part of our ministry has relied on Zoom and YouTube. Dan's preaching load has increased over the last three months as he has been recording messages on YouTube for several churches, as well as the weekly meetings for the new church plant in La Canela. Barb also had an opportunity to share a devotional (in Spanish) with the ladies in La Canela via Zoom last week. We are extremely grateful for these online platforms that have made it possible for us to continue ministering to people, despite the strict lock-down and curfews.



### **La Canela Church Plant**

For the sake of testimony, about a year ago we made the difficult decision to move our Bible studies in La Canela, out of the location where the ministry began. We started over with a new group and began meeting under a mango tree about a half block from the original location. It is a small group, but their faithfulness has been proven, as we have continued to meet via Zoom during the quarantine. For this group to grow, and begin formal services, we need a roof. The property owners have agreed to allow us to put up a temporary lean-to. This project will cost about \$1,000 U.S. dollars. Please pray that God would provide the funds for this much-needed project.

## Additional Church Plants

Though we are not working directly with this church plant, the Benitez family (Dominican church planters) are continuing to work in the town of Mao, about an hour outside of Santiago. This is one of the 4 communities where we have been able to assist with food distribution. This is a key town in the northwestern corridor of the Dominican Republic, which they plan to use as a base for reaching other smaller towns nearby. Please continue to pray for the Benitez family as they work in Mao and La Canela.

God seems to be opening up the door for a new church plant in Moca, a town about 45 minutes outside of Santiago, but in the opposite direction than La Canela. Please pray with us as we consider this open door and as we seek to identify a key couple to lead the ministry and assemble a team to work alongside them. We would love to be able to support a young couple to work in Moca full-time and are trusting that God would provide the resources to do so.

## FAMILY UPDATE

There have been a lot of changes in these past few months and to try to condense it is really hard! But we will try!

As most of you know, Barbara has been teaching K5 and with the whole Covid-19 thing, Oasis Christian School had to go to digital teaching! We had 1 week to transition from teaching in the classroom, to preparing homework packets and creating daily videos and lesson plans for the parents so that they could help their child if the need arose! It was quite a challenging time! But God was faithful as always, and her K5 students “graduated” on June 10, as they received their progress reports. Each of those children will continue to have a very special place in her heart, and she knows that God has amazing plans for them!

Speaking of plans, plans for our recent graduate, Natalia Ann, from Santiago Christian School Class of 2020, are being prayerfully considered. Official Graduation ceremonies have been postponed until at least December. Currently, she is tutoring students out of our home, and she and her best friend Kayla currently have a list of 11 students interested in their Little Learners English School. Please pray for Natalia as she continues to seek God’s will for her life and that she and Kayla can have a great impact on the lives of their English students! She also turns 18 on June 16th!

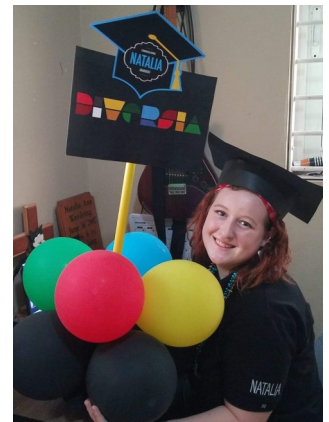
Noah was promoted to Senior status on his 17th birthday this year! He did very well at Oasis Christian School this past school year. We are prayerfully considering what to do with his final year of schooling, as he has asthma, and the masks that the government is requiring students to wear in the classroom, make it hard for him and his asthma tends to kick up. We want to have him finish his high school career at Oasis, but also want what is going to be best for his health. He is still hoping to do some work this summer, but until everything opens up here, his options are limited. His plans for the future after graduation are also unknown, and being prayerfully considered.

Dan has not been able to do much business work since the arrival of the Covid-19, however, God has used this time to open new ministry opportunities, and just daily survival tasks have kept him pretty busy. Lord willing, he will be able to start picking up in the business aspect of things come July.

Thank you again for all of your love, prayers, and support during this time! Lord willing, we will be able to send out personal thank-you notes to many of you once we are able to send and receive mail again. We have not received mail since the beginning of March! May God bless you all!

In His Service,

Daniel, Barbara, Natalia and 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
- Church planting team and ministry in La Canela
- Church plant in Mao
- Church plant potential in Moca
- \$1,000 needed for lean-to in La Canela
- Continued open doors to build relationships with neighbors