



### **To Our brothers and sisters who pray for us:**

May the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

**1 Peter 5:10-11**

Dear friends:

What a great blessing to know that our God is working even in the difficult times in molding us so that we can better serve him, It has been a while since we had the opportunity to share a little bit of our hearts, calling, and desire to serve our God in full-time ministry. Since then many things have happened, both for us and for you all. We want first of all to tell you that if you are receiving this letter our prayers have been raised in behalf of you not only in gratitude for your goodness to us but also in petition to our God that He Himself can “perfect, establish, strengthen and affirm you” during these difficult times.

The last year that could have been a year of perfect vision (2020) turned into a year of doubts, uncertainties and confusion. What a privilege to have had you even throughout that year. Your faithfulness in supporting us financially and in prayers has served to motivate us to make difficult decisions in difficult times. For this we are very grateful and want to share with you the great things that God has been doing through us thanks to your support.

After serving two years at Madison Avenue Baptist Church in Paterson, NJ, and after praying and seeking counsel for months, we decided to open a door that God had presented to us, moving to the south of the United States to minister with the First Baptist Church of Tallahassee, FL. And we did it in June of 2020 during difficult times but with the blessing of God and the support of your Church and all those who love us.

We can say that there are several reasons why we understand this has been the best decision, but in summary, God has been pleased to give us the opportunity to be useful in the United States while we pray and trust that one day we can all return to serve the Dominican Republic as it is our desire.

The process of making our entire family U.S. citizens has been longer and more expensive than we thought. In recent months, since March of last year when our missionary trip was affected by COVID and we had to leave DR because the country was going to close, it has become impossible for us to return with another group to minister in DR. Even this past

March my trip together with other people was canceled because our family, specifically Vanessa, Josué and Jhonny, were positive for COVID 19 for 3 weeks.

While we are in Florida, we have the great opportunity to Pastor the Nueva Vida Church of Vienna, GA, a small town in South Georgia and recently we have started a Church Planting project here in Tallahassee Florida, where we live, work and our children have the opportunity to attend a private and Christian school by the grace of God with the help of scholarships.

For months we felt stuck here in the U.S. thinking that we will never be able to return as a family to serve together in DR. We pray God will make it possible for this to happen. In the meantime, we cannot sit with folded hands here in the United States, where there is such a need in the Hispanic community.

From our new situation we ask for your prayers and support as we serve the Hispanic community in the South of the United States and from here to the Dominican Republic as God allows us. God is creating strong and important connections that we know will benefit the DR ministry in the long term. We are growing as we serve in leading a new church planting project, pastoring and rehabilitating a Church that has been mistreated by its past leadership. This is a big responsibility.

We believe this experience is necessary for the mission field and we see God's hand perfecting, establishing, strengthening and affirming our lives, family and ministry as we move forward.

We look forward to visiting you and sharing in more detail what God is doing. We know that the situation is not the best to go and see you all in person but maybe we can use the technology and be able to see your faces and say hello one day.

In the meantime, know that we continue to pray for you and count on your prayers and support.

In Christ Jesus; Dios les Bendiga!

Jhonny, Vanessa, Juan, Josué and Joel.