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Dominican Happenings

with Your Missionaries Mitch and Debbie Martinez

website: www.dominicanmissions.org

Spring 2011



Where is Home?

Today we are in Charlotte, NC, visiting with our son Paul and his wife, Nicole, and their brand new baby son, Jonas, born March 28. Every weekend we leave our cozy little apartment in Columbia, SC to visit a different church, sharing about our ministry and challenging the people to get involved in missions. The end of April we will be in Texas. In May we'll get to spend time with Sarah and

her family, to welcome their new daughter. Meanwhile in June we'll be visiting churches in Florida and staying with our sons Joshua and Johnny in Titusville. At the end of June we will attend a Missionary Renewal event in Springfield, MO. Then to NJ and Maine. All the time we'll be thinking about the Dominican Republic, the school, the churches, the leaders, the teams who are



coming to help us after we get back in August. In all those places we are thanking the Lord. With Him in our hearts, we are home.

Itineration Schedule

APRIL

Greenville, SC 17th
Elgin, SC 20th
Lakeland, FL 24th
Greenwood, SC 27th
Dallas, TX 28th-30th

MAY

Angier, NC 1st
Loris, SC 8th
Greenville, SC 10th-11th
York, SC 15th
Georgetown, SC 22th
Fernandina Beach, FL 27th

JUNE

Hollywood, FL 5th
Orlando, FL 6th-11th
Bradenton, FL 12th
Springfield, MO 24-30th



The Unidos Por El-United For Him event exceeded our expectations in February as we returned to the DR for two weeks to help. We have a short video that highlights this—See it at our website Dominicanmissions.org Nearly 1500 youth attended

the last evening of concerts.

Two weeks before we left for the event we were still missing \$4500.00 to cover the costs. But God's people responded and the expenses were fully covered. Another great blessing was local and national broadcasts as well

as a live webcast of the event.

A special thanks to Calvary Academy from Lakewood, NJ for their participation. Many responded to the altar call. The video of their missions trip is on Youtube.com

The Jonas Gallery
Jonas Miguel Martinez
Born: March 28, 2011



Please support my grandparents!



Proud Parents Nicole and Paul



Thanks for all your prayers!



The happy grandparents and uncles.

Spring 2011

How to Help Your Missionaries!

Start with prayer! With only three months left before our projected return to the Dominican Republic, **we are still behind \$900.00** in monthly personal support. We count on individuals and churches to pledge monthly to meet our budget. We have been working steadily towards our goal to return at the end of July.

We would never want our supporters to feel pressured. Actually, it is hard for us to ask for ourselves. It is much easier to raise money to build a church, or to support a child at the school. But now is the time to ask: Would you prayerfully consider supporting us for another four years? Your gift may be monthly, quarterly, yearly, or even a one-time gift. It is also possible to give online. We are enclosing pledge forms. Thank you for partnering with us in this ministry. Together we are making a difference!

Furlough, The Fifth Year—What is it?

We've heard lots of names for it: banishment, R & R, furlough, mandatory sabbatical, a vacation, itineration. What is it?

Many missions organizations encourage their missionaries to spend 4 years on the field, and then one year back home. When our kids were in school, it was a good opportunity for them to discover what living in America was all about.

Now that we are empty nesters, we have different emotions about our itineration year. There are some pros and cons.

Pros:

(1) We get the chance to visit family and friends. This is a good year for us: two new grandchildren!

(2) We visit churches and supporters who make it possible for us to be on the mission field. They deserve to hear about the good things God is doing.

(3) We have the chance to visit new churches, widening our support base and making up for those supporters who had to drop us. We are making new friends.

(4) We have opportunities to study and learn new things. Mitch has started his

doctorate in missiology. (5) It forces us to leave leadership in place in the D.R. This is good.

Cons:

(1) We miss the Dominican Republic.
(2) Some of the projects are on standby, waiting

for us to return.
(3) Some people are not receiving the help they need.

This morning I was encouraged in the Word. I identified with Titus, "who encouraged your giving in the first place, and returned to you to encourage you to finish your ministry of giving." II Cor. 8:6. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. As the Scriptures say, They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever."

What are other results from giving? "Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank



God. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving – the needs of the believers will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God."

II Cor.9:11,12. (NLT)

In the D.R. we see needs all around us. We are a bridge between the American church and the believers in the Dominican Republic. Thanks to funds entrusted to us, churches have been built, there's a Christian school in La Vega, there is a TV ministry, after school programs, and students on scholarship at a Christian school. The sick and suffering have received comfort and healing. Students are studying for the ministry. We have seen thousands come to the Lord. They thank you for giving them the privilege of knowing Jesus.