

October 1998

Dear Friends,

This has been an exciting month of preparation for my deputation. Most of the month has been spent with my brother, Pastor Jim Townsley, in Southington, Ct. Here at Central Baptist Church, I have had the opportunity to preach a week of chapel in the academy as well as teach in several different Sunday School classes. A few weeks ago, I was able to preach in a grade school junior church class, and afterwards I was able to lead one young boy to the Lord. He has been coming for some time but had never made a profession of faith, and I believe that he was ready to be saved. Praise the Lord!

I also praise the Lord that I was able to take a second survey trip to the Dominican Republic this last month. The primary purpose in going was to take some more slides to add to my presentation. While I did get some good slides, the greatest blessing was in being able to see the country again. Through this, the Lord gave me an increased vision and burden for the Dominican Republic. Certainly, this is a country greatly in need of the gospel. While there are few fundamental Baptist churches, the country is in a period of transition and is wide open to the influence of the gospel. There is a tremendous need for more missionaries and prepared nationals to plant churches in this country as quickly as possible.

As most of you are aware, hurricane "Georges" ripped through the Dominican Republic this last month, killing hundreds of people and causing millions of dollars in damages. Thankfully, Pastor Dave Crichton, who was traveling with me, and I were able to leave before the fury of this storm hit the island. We departed from the airport in Santo Domingo only about four hours before the last scheduled flight before the storm. I am very thankful that God allowed us to leave before the storm hit and that He protected us and the other missionaries who are serving in the country.

In His Service,

Luke Townsley