

May-June

Dear friends,

It is wonderful to feel settled into our first home here in Costa Rica! Our apartment is small, but very nice and cozy. We have found it to be cheaper and easier in our situation to live without a car. Those places that aren't within walking distance for us are easily accessible by bus or taxi.

Many Costa Ricans use the same or similar products as Americans, although the cost is generally higher here. One item in particular, new clothing, is quite expensive. In addition to the price, another problem with the clothing is that the Costa Ricans are a small people. In our church of about 200, I am usually the tallest one there-and I am just under six feet tall! This in turn, creates real difficulty in finding those extra large sizes, like size 11 shoes and size 34 length pants!

Perhaps one of the most difficult things for missionaries in language school is to not be fed spiritually through preaching. While attending a Spanish church may be a good cultural experience and be helpful in learning Spanish, it is difficult, especially during the first few months, just to grasp the basic idea of what is being said in the services. Recently, the pastor of our church here allowed a pastor from the states to preach in English while a missionary translated the service for the Spanish congregation. I think I can speak for all the missionary-students that were present in saying his message came as a refreshing shower upon parched ground. It was such a tremendous blessing just to be able to understand in our own language and be fed through the preaching of God's word in a personal way. In like manner, through the power of the gospel of Christ, the Dominicans have the opportunity to come to know Christ and live a blessed and victorious Christian life. Our hope and prayer is to soon have a part in taking the glorious gospel of Christ to the Dominican people. Please continue to pray for us that we will progress quickly in the Spanish language.

In His service,

Luke and Hannah Townsley

Missionaries to the Dominican Republic