

April 21, 2001

Dear friends,

Praise the Lord!!! We are finishing our language training and have purchased our tickets to move to the Dominican Republic on May 9. Lord willing, this will be the last time we write a prayer letter from Costa Rica!

We know many of you have been praying with us concerning our outfit and passage needs. There is both good and bad news. The bad news is that we have been able to save less than we had hoped. The amount we have saved is unchanged from our last report since, due to lower than expected income and greater than expected expenses, we have been unable to meet the goal we had set to contribute another \$2,000 to these needs. The good news is that the Lord has supplied and is supplying all of our needs!

In lieu of our regular outfit and passage report, please allow Hannah and me to share some of the details of how God has been working.

1. We recently went to the Dominican Republic for one week. We would like to thank our home church for helping us with a significant part of the expense for this "unplanned" trip.
2. While we were there, we were able to take care of a detail on our visa paperwork as well as take care of some other things in preparation for our move. Our residency visa process is now almost finished.
3. The Lord allowed us to find a large unfurnished apartment to rent in a good location. Although the rent is slightly more than we had anticipated (we agreed to pay \$850 per month plus utilities), we think it is a good deal for us since prices on nearly everything have risen by 15-30% in just the last few months. Although it was not exactly what we had in mind, Hannah and I are very happy with the apartment. Also, it is only a 5-10 minute walk from the church.
4. Regarding a vehicle, our total outfit and passage fund savings was about \$10,000 short of our total estimated expense. We had estimated \$16,000 for a vehicle. On the last trip we took to the Dominican Republic, we tentatively made the decision to buy a 1986 minivan for \$4,000. We feel that in a general overall sense, this vehicle is mechanically sound and will allow us a few years to save for a more reliable vehicle. We praise the Lord for His provision and have adjusted our outfit and passage funds to reflect this change. Please note that any funds specifically designated toward a vehicle have not been changed.
5. We were able to find and purchase several important items including a large refrigerator for \$900. It is like new and in excellent condition. It would probably cost between \$1,600 and \$2,000 new in the Dominican Republic.
6. We do not need to buy a washer or dryer since they are shared with the apartment above us.
7. A back-up power supply is important in a country such as the DR where there are frequent power outages for extended periods of time. We were able to purchase a water-cooled, Honda generator for \$2400 in like-new condition.
8. We were able to purchase a large window air-conditioning unit for \$350 (probably less than half of its value).

These and other changes bring our total estimated need to \$4,000 to finalize our housing setup and to ship our container. As always, you may help with these needs by sending a check made out to BIMI with our account number #1145 on it as well as our name and the purpose you wish the check to be used for. We thank those of you who have helped us with these needs, and we also extend our thanks to those who are faithfully praying for us. Most of all, we thank the Lord for His goodness.

In His Service,

Luke and Hannah Townsley
Missionaries to the Dominican Republic

New address for all correspondence:

Luke and Hannah Townsley
c/o Lynx Air
P.O. Box 407052
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33340