

The Townsley Times

November 2002

Dear friends,

Hannah is expecting! Her due date is May 2. Hannah has had many of the symptoms usually associated with the first trimester, but she is now feeling much more energetic. We have a doctor that we really like and a good clinic only about twenty minutes away where we plan to have the baby. We are planning to postpone our furlough until after the baby is born and also limit our time in the states to 6-8 weeks.

Many Dominicans are starting to feel an economic crunch. During the time we were on deputation, we saw much economic growth and many signs of progress in the country. At that time, we felt that the Dominicans were very open to the gospel in comparison with some other countries, but we were concerned that the climate was changing and that as economic prosperity grew, so would the difficulty in evangelization. For better or for worse, the economic growth has largely come to a halt and in fact, many are very concerned that the country could be facing more difficult times in the next 3-6 years and even beyond. Taxes are up, inflation is up, the exchange rate appears it could be sliding out of control, and electricity rates are among the highest in the world. While it may be more difficult in the coming years to live on a day-to-day basis, we hope that this climate will help turn the hearts of the Dominican people towards God. Also, we would like to see more missionaries called to this country. It is true that there are several good evangelistic, fundamental churches here in Santo Domingo and in other parts of the country. However, there are large segments of the population in practically every city and village that are not being effectively reached with the gospel. We need more missionaries and nationals willing to stand, come what may, to reach this country for Christ.

Please pray with us for the work here. Yesterday (Sunday, November 3) was our first home Bible study. The series will last until about Christmas. We were pleased that there were four Dominican adults in attendance. We were expecting some others that did not make it perhaps due to the rain or the holiday. We are praying that God will use the Bible study and other efforts to bring together at least five families that can form a core group for a new church. We are also planning to have a special activity for the children of our neighborhood for Christmas and invite the parents. Please pray with us for a room or building in which we can have meetings that would accommodate at least a hundred people.

We thank you for your prayers and support. We praise the Lord for the way in which He has met our needs so abundantly. Even in just the last couple of months, we had a new church take us on for support, which will help with the new expenses with the baby as well as increased work expenses we are encountering. Thank you once again for your faithfulness to pray and give.

In His Service,



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