

# The Townsley Times

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October 2001

Dear friends,

Praise the Lord! We finally received our container! Had we known how much trouble and expense we would encounter, I am sure we would have reconsidered shipping it. However, we are really enjoying having our things-many of which we received as wedding gifts and had never used. Perhaps more than the furniture and “extras,” Hannah and I are enjoying most just having our “tools” and things we need to work with.



Considering the fact that the stuff in the container was loaded and unloaded three times during the process and that it traveled what must have been about 1,500 miles or more by rail and farther by boat from Norfolk, VA to the port here, everything arrived in great condition suffering almost no damage! If you will forgive me for sounding a bit colloquial, “The Lord sure took good care of His stuff!”

For me personally, the most difficult part of the entire process was trying to get it through the customs process here. Although on occasion I have crossed paths with some rough people, it was my first real encounter with what seemed to me to be the criminal world. The feeling is really hard to explain. I suppose it is made even more difficult when the evildoers are in the government and in possession of your belongings. As I went from office to office collecting and filing forms and papers and getting dozens of stamps from different offices or different processes within the same offices, I began to understand the real problem we were in. It seemed that at every turn of the process lurked hidden danger and corruption. To go into the entire process would take far too long, but suffice it to say that many of the lessons and things God has taught us will be invaluable in our work here in the future. It was a very difficult and expensive education, but quite thorough. Thank you again for your prayers for us during that difficult time.

Through our experience with our container and other things, we have been truly in awe at the unrestrained wickedness abounding in this country. On the other hand, we have been visiting various Baptist churches pastored by both Dominicans and missionaries to gain an understanding of the people and the work that is already in progress right here in the Dominican Republic. Just as we have been shocked and troubled by the wickedness abounding, we have been thrilled and encouraged by the wonderful spirit and evangelistic attitude of most of the churches we have had the opportunity to visit. We have been greatly encouraged and strengthened through these people and by their example.

Please continue praying for us during this time that we will indeed learn all that God has for us and especially that He will continue to help us learn the language and ways of these people. Also, we are considering one area of the city in particular to begin a church on the northwest side. Please pray that the Lord would give us wisdom and direction concerning the exact location and the way that He would have us begin.

Also, please note that we are changing addresses. Please **do not** send anything more to our “Lynx Air” address since they are closing. We plan to provide you with another address in our next prayer letter.

Your missionaries to the Dominican Republic,  
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