



## DOMINICAN VISION INC. (DVI) FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2021



“Let us give glory to the Lord and praise His name in the islands” Isaiah 42:12

2020 was really a miraculous year for this ministry in the Dominican Republic. Our team would never have dreamed that we'd be providing food for around 1500 people over 10 months plus, or that we'd have the resources to do so! We started with about 500 people. Now our current cost **FOR FOOD** is about \$16,000.00 Canadian per month.

Included in the many people who received a bag of food every 2 weeks were many elderly, single moms, families of every child that attends our school and a Christian Addiction Centre in Puerto Plata. We made a special effort to give a small Christmas gift to each child (bought by the school staff) and a nice meal to take home to their family. Also each family that Pastor Chalas and Karen are providing food for received a chicken on Christmas Eve. Karen (red dress in photo) bought and wrapped small Christmas gifts for the children of the 100+ families in the areas where she distributes food. Many Haitians (poorest of the poor) live in these areas. Thank you so much to all of you for praying and donating even in this time of pandemic!



A few exciting developments happened in 2020 that we want to share now. For years, Pastor Chalas has had free TV airtime on a local cable channel every Sunday morning. Different people from our build groups, mission teams, Leader Retreat team and Masterworks have shared their faith stories on this program. As well, he and another elder from his church started a weekly radio program out of Puerto Plata. Last year, they built a tiny studio over his office in Arroyo Seco (behind the school kitchen). We were not asked to fund this. In addition to the above mentioned programs, five ladies from the Arroyo Seco church started a weekly program called “Women with a Call” and a group of young adults from the area churches are streaming a new program for youth – “Transformed by Jesus” - to encourage them in this time of great uncertainty. These are basically live stream talk shows.

Arroyo Seco (which means **dried out creek**), this tiny seemingly ordinary village is slowly but surely becoming what we, for many years, believed God had purposed it to be – **A RIVER OF LIFE** – streaming the Gospel around the world.



Pastora Jenny, Vianela, Johanna



Pastor Chalas and Walter



Pastor Chalas and Esther



Erikson, Edward, Pastor Chalas

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Our school children and their families are all healthy! Praise God! Our students are learning their lessons from their teachers at home, as described in our last newsletter. The Dominican government is trying to educate their students by having them watch 3 hours of lessons on TV. This becomes a problem when there are multiple children in a household. The country has stricter curfews now: from noon to 5AM the next day on weekends and all holidays and from 7pm to 5AM the next day on week days. However, everything can be open, churches now just at 25%. Many hotels and shops did not open due to lack of tourists. There is some work for some people. The new government is no longer giving the unemployed a small amount of money for food. They are no longer providing any assistance for any of their citizens.

University continues on line; one our students graduated (Prudencia aka Yanny) but the others continue – Alfred, Enmanuel, Perla, Abiel, Braundy and Ana Gabriella (seen in photo with her sponsor Brenda). Some only have a cell phone and WhatsApp to do their studies (no laptops or computers).



Pastora Jenni (school counselor) with some of the children.



We are grateful that 2 friends responded to our plea for sponsors. There are still 10 unsponsored children.

Regardless of sponsorship, these children are our students and their families receive food help. Our costs are almost double the sponsorship fees that we request. (\$40.00/month per child) Our staff continues to work hard and we wanted to feature some of them here. With Carol: Yulenny, Carolina, Alfred, Ynelis, & Daniel



Principal Carolina

We have asked Pastor Chalas to hire men to build a fence around the land we purchased last September. At that time we purchased one acre from the larger parcel of land that our neighbour to the right of the school owns. This is to keep the neighbor's cows out. We have asked the leaders of the church to discuss how they can use some of the land now to help the community with food production. Some will be used for housing in the future.

We very much appreciate all donations and prayers for this ministry. Our deepest thanks to all who helped us in many different practical ways as well. We still need your help! May God Bless You!

From the Dominican Vision Team  
Walter & Carol Warkentin, Betty Giesbrecht, Ted & Esther Wogberg & Pastor Hipolito Chalas

To donate by credit card go to Dominican Vision <http://dominicanvision.org/donations/> OR by cheque made out to Dominican Vision & mailed to 307 Oakland Ave. Winnipeg, MB R2G 0B2 For info contact Walter Warkentin by e-mail: [walterw@mymts.net](mailto:walterw@mymts.net) or by phone: 204-298-1297