



DOMINICAN VISION INC. (DVI) WINTER NEWSLETTER MARCH 2022



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

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful that you have supported the Dominicans, their families, and this ministry through a very tough pandemic. They had very strict curfews for over a year and a lot of months of strict stay at home orders in the D.R.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

A huge thanks to the sponsors of our 100 kids, who helped us pay for this. The children had a little program with singing, games, and a dinner of barbecued chicken (big treat for most who have only been eating rice, beans, salami, spaghetti for almost 2 years!) They also received small gifts of sweet treats. The church and outdoor basketball court were decorated with balloons and streamers. All our 15 teachers/staff received a box full of everything they would need to make a nice Christmas meal with gifts for their family.



Christmas Party



BUILD AND MISSION GROUP 2022

We were surprised and blessed to have a brave group come and help us with the next projects.

These consisted of digging a well and building a well house, building a recording studio and working on the garden which had been planted last year.

Five people from our Team of 7 came on the trip and we also invited 2 men, John Krueger and Cavy Braun, to come and advise us as a Team. As well, 8 others from Winnipeg and Vancouver Island joined us to help build.

WELL AND WELL HOUSE

The village well does not have enough water for the Land Project, and we will need a lot more water for our future plans for the property. The well diggers found too little water at the first site and so had to dig a second well. The Vancouver Island group built a well house, which will hold the inverter and batteries for the solar panels on the roof. These panels will supply the power for a future water purification system. It will also be a small storage area with an outdoor shady area to work while harvesting vegetables/fruits.



RECORDING STUDIO PROJECT

As many of you know, Dominicans (Pastor Chalas, Pastora Jenny and a women's group, as well as a young adults' group) are recording tv programs and live streaming other programming out of Arroyo Seco. Every Sunday morning a two-hour TV show is sent via internet to the cable station in Sosua. We reach over 5,000 people sending our program through the cable TV station and have over 3,000 subscribers to each of our other streaming programs. The new two-story recording studio will make it so much easier to tape these programs.

For now, we will only finish the 2-room downstairs. The entrance room is large enough to adequately house the programmer with his sound equipment. The larger room on the right side (without windows because of sound) is well suited as a taping room, even if a smaller group wishes to tape a performance. Because of financial reasons, the upstairs will not be finished at this time. There will be no interior walls so that larger bands with singers can tape programs. This building is very important to the local Christians. They showed this by collecting enough money and free labor to install the footings and the main floor walls. Our crew helped with the rest.



It was hard slogging for the 13 Canadians with help from a few Dominicans. The cement was mixed by hand, carried by pail for the floor of the second level. When dry, cinder blocks, more cement and rebar for the second-floor walls, plus wood and tin for the roof all had to be hand carried. Meanwhile some kept working on the well house structure and roof. All this in 9 working days. About one third of the work was done in rain/drizzle. Thanks all, for your sacrifices in order to get the roof on both buildings. Construction material costs have risen astronomically, and we also paid the Dominicans for their labour.



Photo shows group mixing cement for the second floor of the recording studio. Above and to the right shows the yucca garden with prayer mountain behind it.

THE ONE ACRE GARDEN

The yucca grew tremendously since our last trip in November 2021, and it is about ready to harvest. Because of the lack of water, the Dominicans were dependent on rain to water this garden. Some pigeon peas were planted in between the yucca. (Shown with Pastor Chalas and Walter)



Miranda's testimony:

"School in the DR was AMAZING! I also got a chance to be part of grade 2 and to teach grade 5. God showed me I have a lot to offer thru him. I connected with the teachers and the students hugged me a lot. God showed me thru the kids and teachers, to trust His process, and just be me. This trip was a calling from God in my heart!"



Carol and Esther put together 41 Spanish reading booklets so that the school can have a "I love to read month". They now have about 150 booklets that we have made for them.

(Carol with Principal Carolina)

Miranda helped at the school and shared Jesus' love.



Esther (shown here with Pastor Chalas) shared on TV about "Honor". As well, she taught on "Giving Our Fears to God" during the Friday morning school chapel.

Esther's write up about the trip:

This is not so much about building, but planting. Planting is all about hope. Anticipation for the fruit to come. It's all about life and growth.

We see life and growth in the individuals in this community. They have persevered through hunger, drought, lost jobs, schools and businesses closing, and dearly missing the Dominican Vision's trips. The church and school have suffered difficulties, but they are encouraged, especially by our visit. Our presence brings hope. Our suitcases bring school supplies, building tools, medical supplies, other necessities of life (dried soup mix and apple chips), and extras to bring joy.

Our vision for Arroyo Seco is for God to transform it to be a place of hope. God has called us to "provide for those who grieve... to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor."

(Isaiah 61:3)



Walter had 9 opportunities to preach



We invited all 15 leaders who have distributed food on our behalf over the last almost 2 years to the hotel for dinner in 3 groups. We asked them to share with us about the impact of the massive undertaking of bags of food for 1500 people distributed bi-weekly. They shared how people understood this food was a gift from God. All the richer and bigger charities stopped giving long ago and left people to fend for themselves. We were uniquely positioned, in that we distributed much of our food to the harder to reach countryside. Only some in the Sosua area. The people distributing the food told us how the desperation in the country during covid drew some people to church and into a relationship with God.



Our food distribution continues in a scaled back version. The most desperate are still getting a bag of food – 100-125 families. 400-500 people are eating this food every day. An example of those still receiving food, are the school children (daily meal) as well as the families of the poorest children. Also, really desperate people like the lady with the pink head scarf (shown below right). She has a 20+ year old mentally challenged daughter. If we were not helping, she would have to take her daughter and go begging for money until she had enough to purchase food for that day. There are many single moms in similar situations. Six of the Canadians went on a village food run with one of our leaders, Karen, who is an independent missionary in DR. Such heartbreaking poverty.



Left: Karen with Deen.



Right: Karen and Carol



The cost of food and materials is unbelievably high in the DR. This has substantially affected our budget, especially since we have expanded the Ministry by digging the well and building the well house and recording studio. Soon we will bury water lines from the well in order to water the new crops we are planting. This together with the electrical will also be an expensive project.



More than ever, we need your faithful support! The Gospel is being spread daily by our streaming ministry, cable TV show, Church and food distribution.

Our school of about 100 students is doing well. The ministry is growing. Please continue to pray!

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

From the Dominican Vision Team

Walter & Carol Warkentin, Betty Giesbrecht, Ted & Esther Wogberg, Kristie Sidwall, Deen Krol & Pastor Hipolito Chalas

To donate by credit card: Dominican Vision <http://dominicanvision.org/donations/> OR E-Transfer walterw@mymts.net 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 or by phone: 204-298-1297

www.dominicanvision.org

Charitable Reg. # 81277 8702 RR0001

General address: 307 Oakland Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R2G 0B2
Sponsorship Address: 411-455 Edison Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R2G 0M2
Sponsorship enquiries to: Barb Hodgkinson – barb@dominicanvision.org