

THE *Prater* FAMILY

MISSIONARIES TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Dear Praying Friends and Faithful Supporters,

February - March 2021

We have arrived! It is difficult to know where to start and how to fit into words all that the Lord has done the past two months. Let me begin by saying, "God is so good, He is so faithful, and He is always right on time every time." The Lord began to place this burden for the Dominican Republic upon our family back in 2012. From that time forward, our goal has been set for this moment and here we are. What we have prayed over and worked toward for years is now a reality. From January 2019 till January 2021, we have been in about 189 deputation meetings, and we traveled about 89,745 miles throughout the duration. It was an amazing feeling when our plane landed here in the Dominican Republic on 2/16. It's a blessing just to know that we are here starting the work that God has called our family to; what a joy and what a privilege! We closed on our house on 2/11. We left on 2/16. Praise the Lord for this timely answer to prayer! My ordination service and doctrinal questioning went well and will always be a very memorable time of my life. I am so thankful for all the men of God that came to participate in my ordination questioning. There was much wisdom given to me, and I am grateful for it!

The Sunday before our departure, our home Church gave us a wonderful sendoff service where we were able to tell our Church family goodbye. Pastor Rogerson and another man from our home Church came to pick us up on 2/15 to drive us to the Raleigh-Durham airport. We said goodbye to family and ended up packing, not just 19 suitcases but 15 full-size suitcases, 6 carry-on bags, 6 under-the-seat bags, 4 car seats, and 1 baby stroller! Thank you everyone for your prayers! God always sent someone our way to be there when we needed the help. Whether it was loading our luggage into/out of the airport, onto/off the plane, or to our apartment, God's hand was with us the entire way. From that time till now, the Lord has helped us get our apartment settled with furniture and necessities, purchase our vehicle, find the right doctor for Brittany and the baby, and so much more! It is hard to believe that we have already been here a month and a half, and yet, at the same time, it is hard to believe that we have only been here a month and a half. What I mean by that is that our days have been filled with so many things to get done and there has been so much going on that it seems as though we've been here much longer. For the majority of our time since our arrival, I have been helping Brittany and the boys get settled and feel comfortable in a new environment/culture. One of the biggest things that has been stressed to me as a husband by Pastor Treadway, Pastor Rogerson, Brother Autrey, our Missions' Agency, and other missionaries is to make sure that Brittany is comfortable and able to function as a wife and as a mother in our home once we arrived in the Dominican. So, since we did not ship a crate, we have done a lot of shopping, traveling, and putting together furniture since our arrival. Most of our furniture has come in boxes and the items had to be assembled piece by piece. Many hours have been spent assembling furniture!

We have been witnessing, handing out gospel tracts, and starting with our Spanish tutor classes. From the day that we first came here, there has been some vast improvements on our language. The hardest part for me initially was hearing what they were saying. Their words just seemed to run together, the masks that everyone wears muffles their voices, and there is no ability to lip read. I prayed and said, "Lord, please help me with this." From that time till now, Brittany and I both are experiencing large improvements in our language skills. That has been the most difficult thing - training our ears to hear their dialect. Please continue to pray for us in this so that we can have a more effective ministry and witness. Brother Autrey has given me the opportunity to teach in the Bible study on Friday nights once more, and Lord willing, I will be preaching for my first time since our arrival on Easter Sunday. Thank you all so much for your continued prayers and support. You are continually in our prayers. We love you and praise God for you all. P.S. The contact number for my U.S. phone number (276-706-2025) is no longer usable. My current Dominican number is 829-629-7555. This number will only be available if you have an international phone plan. Otherwise, we use an app called "WhatsApp" to call our Pastor, Church members, some supporting Churches, family, etc. in the U.S. free of any charges. You may contact us through this app at your own discretion. We also still have the same email address, and you can contact us in that manner as well. Please send any mail to our Missions Agency's mailing address. Thank you!

In Jesus' Name,

Ethan and Brittany Prater
Enoch, Silas, Jude, and John

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