

# THE *Prater* FAMILY

MISSIONARIES TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Dear Praying Friends and Faithful Supporters,

June - July 2021

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life (Psalms 23:6)...” The goodness and mercy of God has been evident and clear in how He continues to show Himself faithful to me and my family. God is good! We want to thank you all for your prayers for our family. God has answered them! We would like to introduce you to the newest addition of our family – Ezra Paul Prater. Ezra is a healthy baby boy and was born on 7/24/21 at 12:30 a.m. He weighed 6 lbs. at birth and was the smallest of all our boys with his birth weight. Ezra and Brittany are both doing well. We praise the Lord for His protection and help during her pregnancy and delivery! We are grateful for all the help that He gave us while Brittany was in labor. Two missionary families pitched in to care for the older boys while Brittany was in labor. Thank the Lord for their help! The older boys are all excited about their new baby brother and constantly want to take turns holding him. John (our 2-year-old) is still skeptical of him, says the baby is “dirty,” and that he himself is the baby, not Ezra. John is in denial that someone else is taking his place, but he is slowly warming up to him! We do ask for your continued prayers in Brittany’s recovery as well as the health of our newborn baby. Our Pastor’s wife, Sister April, and another lady from our home Church, Sister Hannah, were able to come down after the birth of our baby boy to be a blessing to our family and a help to Brittany as she takes time to rest. And what a blessing and help they have been! Thank you Sister April and Sister Hannah!

On the ministry side, the Lord has continued to help Brittany and I with our Spanish, and I have been able to speak more fluently as I witness to those in public. There is still much to learn, but we give thanks to God for the progress that we have made! I recently taught one of our discipleship Sunday school classes completely in Spanish without the help of an interpreter! It was very exciting for me to do this - to teach the word of God in their native language. The feeling was indescribable but was something that I had looked forward to for a long time. All the glory goes to God! I have not said much on the situation with COVID and the effect that it has had in the Dominican Republic. But, since our arrival, we have had to deal with a lot of curfew restrictions that have fluctuated back-and-forth. There had been times where it was even affecting our Sunday morning services! The curfew was making it difficult for our services, Church activities, and ministries. We continued to pray for God’s help in lessening the curfew restrictions, and the times have become much more relaxed the past two months. The current times are 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. on the weekdays, and 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. on the weekends. We are grateful for the relief that the Lord has given. We ask your prayers that God would continue to keep the restrictions at bay if it be His will. He knows what is best! We have also taken the past few weeks at the Church to paint, stain, repair leaks, repair flooring, reframe the Christian school desks, etc. during the Christian school’s summer break. Some have been curious as to what the life of a missionary has been like for us since we arrived on the field. If I could sum it up in three simple descriptive words, I would say it like this, “The life of a missionary for us has been obedience to God as a student, a servant, and a soul-winner.” 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.

In Jesus’ Name,

Ethan and Brittany Prater

*Enoch, Silas, Jude, John, and Ezra*

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