

THE *Prater* FAMILY

MISSIONARIES TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Dear Praying Friends and Faithful Supporters,

October - November 2021

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience” (James 1:2-3). Sometimes there are moments in a Christian’s life where we simply have to “endure” hardships that are out of our control (II Timothy 2:3; 4:5). But I am so glad that the Lord knows the situation, He knows our hearts, and He is able to help us through any trial. We have been keeping everyone posted on our visas. The last update that we had given was that we had received all of our needed documents, and our visa application was in process. There were still some approvals we needed to make within the Dominican Republic for some of our paperwork, and we had been waiting for that to be finalized. At the beginning of October, we were told that all of our visa papers were ready to be submitted to the Dominican Embassy in Washington D.C. There was a requirement that our passports and paperwork had to be turned in by either me or Brittany in person to the embassy. Brittany and I knew the importance of going ahead and submitting for our visas as soon as possible. We knew it wouldn’t be wise to delay the process with the holidays approaching as well as the furlough for Brother Autrey and Sister Chona. So we prayed together and had peace about me leaving for the U.S. to submit our passports and paperwork into the embassy. We had been told by our Dominican lawyer that the process should take approximately 3-5 days but should not be any longer than ten to complete the applications. I left for Washington D.C. on October 12th expecting to spend a maximum of ten days in the U.S. to submit our visa applications and return back home to the D.R.

But God had other plans, and He has His reasons for everything He does. I ended up spending a full thirty-one days in the U.S. while our visas were being processed. It was a very difficult time for our family not knowing when I would return. But I am thankful that God hears us when we pray, God gives us the strength to endure, and there’s always something to learn when going through times like that. We also are very thankful for the Autrey family who were a tremendous help in being there for Brittany and the boys while I was away. I was able to obtain my visa on November the 12th, and I booked a next-day flight to the Dominican on November 13th. Brittany’s and the boys’ visas were almost completed when I left, but they are now finished and are currently in the process of being shipped to us. Praise the Lord! Brittany’s parents had scheduled to come visit us during the Thanksgiving holiday, and thankfully, they were still able to come visit on our first Thanksgiving in the D.R. God knows just what we need when we need it, and I know them being with us during Thanksgiving was something the Lord knew we needed. It was exciting for them to see in person and hold baby Ezra for the first time. Our boys seem to be gaining a lot more Spanish now and are becoming more enthused with learning new Spanish words and phrases. We would like to give a special thank you to everyone who has given to our National Pastors’ Christmas offering. We look forward to sharing with you the details of the Christmas banquet and gift-giving we plan to have for them. Please pray for the Autrey family’s furlough which starts on December the 7th, and we ask for prayers for our family and New Life Baptist Church as we minister here in their absence throughout this upcoming year. We hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving and will have a Merry Christmas! 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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