

# THE *Prater* FAMILY

MISSIONARIES TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Dear Praying Friends and Faithful Supporters,

June - July 2024

"For we were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem" (Ezra 9:9). We are back on the field! I had mentioned in our last prayer letter that our departure date was set for June 27<sup>th</sup>, but we did not arrive to the Dominican Republic until July 2<sup>nd</sup>. At the last minute, we had realized that one of our children's passports had expired. Thankfully, we were able to get it quickly resolved at a passport agency in Washington D.C. and still fly out five days later. God is good! Many of you had been praying for my sister Brittany with her health conditions. She had been hospitalized from around the time of our arrival to the U.S. for furlough in September until June 8<sup>th</sup> when she went home to be with the Lord. I appreciate all the prayers for her and for our family. We don't always understand why, but we know the timings of the Lord are perfect. I am thankful for the time we were able to spend with her before her passing, and that we were able to be in the U.S. with her during that time. Jude was saved on June 9<sup>th</sup> during the morning service at Emmanuel Baptist Church, praise the Lord! God had been working on his heart after the passing of his aunt. Our sendoff service was on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Silas and Jude were both baptized after the evening service. Upon arrival to the D.R., Brittany got pneumonia, and later, Azariah did as well. Both are doing much better but still have a lingering cough.

God has given us a nail (Ezra 9:8) here in Puerto Plata, and we have begun all the preparations for the Church. We have been hard at work getting things ready and set up where we can have a decent, comfortable, and safe environment for our family and for the Church. One of the biggest projects that we undertook was repairing the roof. There had been several places where it had been leaking and the roof had not had maintenance for many years. There were a few bad storms we had during repairs, and we suffered some minor water damage throughout the house. Thankfully, the roof is now repaired, and we have been able to move on to other projects such as electrical, plumbing, and construction repairs. We are almost at a point of beginning our Bible studies and holding Church services. One of the last big projects we have is to clear out the back yard which had become overgrown with vines and trees, littered with glass, shards of metal, and debris. This area is to be the main entrance to the Church. Our plans are to build a safe walkway from the door entrance through the yard where it can be easily accessed by the elderly or handicapped. The work has come along well, and we greatly appreciate all the prayers and support you have shown our family through this new transition. Please pray for the completion of all the major setups for the Church, the health of our family, for the seed of the gospel to spread abundantly here in Puerto Plata, and to bring forth much fruit. 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, Ezra, and Azariah*



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