

“What? We get to ride in *that*?” Collective surprise spread through our sleepy group as we stumbled from the airport in Santo Domingo and saw our transportation. Mr. Leach and our drivers, Ignacio and Ydis, didn’t question if the blue Daihatsu pickup would fit fourteen people and all of their luggage. Apparently, the local Dominicans do this kind of thing all the time.

It took about two hours to complete the trip from the airport in Santo Domingo, through Bayaguana (where our meetings are held), far out into the wilderness of the Dominican Republic. The roads here have more in common with dry, rocky riverbeds than actual lines of transit—but the view is worth it.



As we pass picturesque fields of cattle and see bright flowers peeking from between the jungle foliage, it’s strange to think that only a few locals ever pass over this road and see these sights. We arrived at our mission site, Corozal, at around 1:00 am after traveling about 22 hours.



Several years ago, the ministry here used to be an Adventist training center for medical missionaries. Equipped with a bakery, agriculture program, wellness center, dorms, and staff housing, the now-empty campus provides the perfect place to house fourteen missionaries.

We are staying in the wellness center with two other staff families that are attempting to get the program here running again. A mission report would be incomplete without describing our living conditions in the mission field! There is no running water or electricity, except for brief periods on some evenings when they run the generator. For overseas mission work, our sleeping conditions are quite nice, however—we have beds with mattresses, and mosquito netting! Perhaps the living conditions have been one of the most interesting aspects that demand our adaptation.

“When we first got here, I thought it was gross and I didn’t want to touch anything,” says Lindsey. “But now it’s growing on me.” Perhaps the open-aired buildings that allow lizards, insects, and frogs inside are new to most of us. “It’s not that hard to get used to, though,” says Abby, the team member who has voiced the most determined distaste for these creatures. Hannah thinks primarily about hauling buckets of water for our showers. “I feel like I’m getting buffer all the time,” she says optimistically. Indeed, life in the mission field is different from the plush conditions of the United States, but it’s apparent that our entire team is adjusting well and growing from it.

The Lord is blessing abundantly in our meetings, as well. There are two locations where our evangelistic series, health lectures, and Truth for Youth programs are held. At the large church in Bayaguana, David preaches the sermons, Josh Baute gives health lectures, and Niccole translates. Lindsey, Hannah, Abby, and Darlington work with the children. At the smaller church at Rio Boya, Jaimie preaches and Bradley helps them to understand health principles. Argentina, Josh Yang, and Hailey conduct the VBS program.



Between the two sites, over 80 visitors attend the evangelistic series and over 90 children. “It’s kind of wild,” says Josh Yang about working with the children. “I have never seen such a loud and wild group of kids. God is teaching me patience and giving me endurance.”

“We should view the kids as children of God,” says Darlington. “It’s really a privilege to work with them and see them developing an interest for the Lord.”





Wonderful things are happening in the adult meetings, as well. We will mention more about that in our next report. God is truly blessing, and bringing many spiritually hungry people to the meetings. We know our time here is not in vain! God will bring a plentiful harvest, and in the meanwhile, each individual is developing character traits that can only be gained in the mission field.

Please continue to pray for us. Some specific prayer requests:

1. Order and management in the children's meetings
2. Audiovisual operation
3. The wonderful people who are learning truth each night

The Dominican Republic Mission Team







