

The Autreys

Dominican Republic



November-December 2011

Dear Friends,

Another year has come to pass and all that has been done is recorded. Each year I like to reflect on what I could do better and what I need to change for the New Year. This past year was very busy right down to the end.

In November we were busy getting things ready for Christmas including planning and rehearsals for the many activities that would happen in December. There were also the normal tasks that had to be maintained—preaching, seminary classes, youth meetings, ladies meetings, men's prayer breakfast, and, if that were not enough, we were approaching the end of our first semester in the Christian School. However, the greatest thing that took place in November was that 2 people were saved. No matter what we do, that is always the biggest blessing of any month!

When December arrived it became clear that we only thought we were working hard in November. This year I decided to take on all the food preparation for our annual Ladies Christmas Banquet. I prepared turkey, seafood parmesan pasta, rice, vegetables, salad, bread and fruit for 35-40 ladies. We had 45 ladies in attendance and not a morsel was left! The Lord blessed the meeting in a great way and our ladies left full both physically and spiritually. Next was our National Pastors Christmas Banquet. There were so many people involved this year to ensure we had the best Christmas for them that was possible. We are grateful to all those who helped with a gift for the national pastors Christmas. We also had a group of ladies who collected donations of food for the pastors and the 12th grade class at the Christian school, under the director of Pastor Jonathan, also collected food and planned the meal for the banquet. We were glad to have Brother Larry Cavender come as well to help with the preparation for this event. I am still hearing thanks from the pastors for the efforts made for them on that day. They said it was the best Christmas ever.

We finished December with a Christmas program and dinner at the church. It was the best attended service of the year. Although this has been one of the busiest years of ministry that I can remember in the DR, I believe it has been one of the most blessed by God with growth and spirituality in New Life Baptist Church.

You have made all this possible through your prayers and support to the Word of God here in the Dominican.

In His Name,

Ronnie & Chona Autrey

Mission Board

Baptist International Missions, Inc.
POB 9215, Chattanooga, TN 37412
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Letters

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Packages

Ronnie Autrey
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September-October 2011

Dear Friends,

Busy, busy, and even busier—that best describes the last couple of months. In the first part of September, we were very busy with the beginning of the school year. We have over 150 students in New Life Christian Academy this year. We all pulled together and worked hard to have the best startup this year. Then came the arrival of our newest granddaughter, Adalynn. Well, what can I say—she's a cutie pie. Chona and I are really enjoying having two girls around the house to play with. The rest of September was spent preparing for our upcoming churchwide Family Retreat.

In October many things happened to challenge us to work harder for the Lord and to rely solely on His power and ability to resolve that which is impossible for us. For some time, we had been planning a family retreat, and as things are, Satan always tries to cause problems to discourage us. The site we had reserved almost a year ago tried to raise the price by 30% which was totally out of budget for the retreat. In the midst of this, my right hand man in the Christian school (Mariano Hernandez) was admitted to the hospital and diagnosed with cancer. There were several other items that also had to be dealt with. To make a long story short, things began to happen as God saw that we did not waver. First, one of the men in our church found a site for the conference that was better than the first one. The new site included 3 meals, had a larger place for our meetings, and in the long run was a better all around. Second, all the reports from Mariano's cancer were good for a complete recovery and he has already had 2 treatments of chemo. Third, I received a call from a longtime friend who was in my youth group some 31 years ago when I was the youth pastor at Yokota Baptist Church in Japan. Brother Lonnie has been visiting and supporting the work in the DR for the last 8 years. He has felt for the past 2 years that God was calling him from the pastorate to become a missionary to the DR and work under our leadership as part of the mission team of New Life Baptist ministries. Many problems came our way very quickly, but as our people began to pray and seek God's will, He intervened and showed us once more that Satan cannot prevail against His awesome power. What a great and wonderful thing it is to daily serve our Lord knowing that He is always awaiting our prayers and to answer within His will. Our Family Retreat was a slam dunk winner that ended with 85% of our church in attendance (120), souls saved, marriages healed, and youth who vowed to honor God with their lives. What more could we ask God for than for Him to lead that we might follow.

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We ask that you pray with us as we prepare for the National Pastor's Christmas this year. We need to raise funds for 28 pastors and 3 assistant pastors, all graduates of Resurrection Baptist Seminary. We hope to raise \$150.00 per couple and \$250.00 per family which will provide a Christmas dinner, gifts, and money for the holidays. If you would like to sponsor a pastor and his family, please send funds to: Account 826-Santo Domingo Project Fund, BIMBI, Attention: Christmas for National Pastors.

We are grateful for your prayers and support of the work in the DR.

In Christ,

Ronnie Autrey

Dr. Ron Autrey & family



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June-August 2011

Dear Friends,

As always, it is a great privilege to write to you about the happenings in the DR. In June we had a very busy month of finishing the school year with testing, programs, and registrations for the coming year. Apart from these activities, we were also in preparation for the Resurrection Baptist Seminary modules that were held at the end of June. What a great time we had with all the pastors and students from the different areas of the country who came and joined us for the week. God truly blessed the teaching of Dr. Sal Yannizi and Dr. Fred Schindler from Valley Baptist Church in Pennsylvania and Brother Jeremy Rands from First Baptist Church in Milford, Ohio. Everyone was blessed and experienced growth in the knowledge of God's Word. Many of our men took time to thank me for the subjects that were chosen and for the men that God sent to teach them. The preparing of men to preach God's Word is one of the most rewarding opportunities that God has allowed us to be part of in His work in the DR.

July was another busy month with much to do throughout the Dominican. From Vacation Bible Schools across the island, to finishing some work on the new church in Constanza (Pleasant View Baptist Church), to teen conferences, and teacher seminars for the coming school year. We have also started a new church in the town of Tireo with one of the men from our Bible school. We have rented a building for this work and will keep you updated as to its progress. Currently about 20 are attending.

As for August, we began the month with a dedication service at Pleasant View in Constanza. Our church had been very excited as they waited for this trip. We were able to get many needed items for the new congregation—hymn books, choir books, and chairs for the church. We were also able to give the pastor a Bible and his wife gifts from the ladies of the church. It was a great service with every chair filled. Of the two churches, I am not sure which was blessed the most, but it was close!

During the last few months we have revamped our Sunday School for the children and all is going well with the new changes. We also made some changes with our youth program that have really helped. We also were glad to see 4 adults and 3 children receive Christ. We have been blessed with so many things that God has brought our way.

We are thankful continually for your prayers and support.

In Christ,

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March 15 – May 15, 2011

Dear Friends,

The past 2 ½ months have been exceeding busy. We began the month of March with the building of Iglesia Bautista Bella Vista in Constanza. The nationals and I labored very hard for the first 4 weeks of this construction getting the site ready for 2 work teams coming from the States to assist us. After clearing the land, our first course of action was to build a bridge. An irrigation canal separated the road from the property. Out of 11 new churches built over the past 19 years, this bridge was a first. Rafa and I planned and built the bridge. Though it was built mainly for use by the congregation, we had 2 trucks loaded with filler dirt weighing over 2 tons cross the bridge and it held strong. After the bridge, we poured a 30 x 40 ft. pad which gives the people a place to congregate after church services. It was also a blessing to us during the construction project. Next, we built the foundation and poured the floor. We were now ready for our April construction groups to help build the block walls, put on the roof, and install wiring, plumbing, windows, and doors.

Surely one of the most rewarding aspects of the project was to watch the nationals work so hard side by side with their American counterparts. By far the greatest reward was seeing 11 young people saved and 1 young man surrender to begin a new church in the city of Tireo, near Constanza. God is still moving among His people.

For Easter, we held our very first sunrise service in the D.R. Our people didn't understand a sunrise service because no one ever has one. Brother Jerry Reece came to share the meaning and importance of the service and our people were truly stirred as they heard God's Word preached as the sun began to rise. It was a real encouragement to see 40 church members come out at 5:00 a.m. for the service.

In May I returned to the U.S. to attend a conference with the Georgia Association of Christian Schools. I enjoyed the sessions and they will greatly benefit New Life Christian Academy.

We appreciate your prayers and support for the ministry in the Dominican.

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