



# Happy New Year from Connie January 2012

**Iglesia Evangélica Dominicana**  
**Apartado 42 Barahona, Dominican Republic**

## Church Outreach

Early in December we painted the house being used as a small orphanage as I reported in the December newsletter. On December 23, we cooked together behind Sylvia's house and delivered food to fifteen different houses. It was crazy shopping for the food in Barahona. I had never seen the outdoor market sooo crowded! Sylvia and Francia were the main cookers, but we all tried to help peeling and opening the grandules (green peas) to make the moro with coco. (mixed rice with the green peas with lots of coco milk) mmmmmm. After four hours of preparation we delivered the food to the families and prayed for each of them wishing them a Christ filled Christmas. It was a tiring but very fulfilling day.



## Improvisation of the Nativity Story



I read a story many years ago about an improvisation of the Nativity story and had always wanted to it, but just never did, until this December. I worked for two weeks making costumes without any sizes in mind hoping to pull this off. Beyer Pharmaceuticals was coming to give Christmas gifts to the school children so I was afraid that we wouldn't have any children, but I assured them I would have them out in time to go to the school. Many had seen me making the costumes and wanted to be selected, so we had a good number of children in service. They took their parts so seriously and did a great job. Yes, it does look like there were two reindeer in the stable, but we don't have Michael's craft stores here and I could only find these antlers while visiting Jon, Jenny and Mathew for Thanksgiving. I had them remain in position and we had the offering asking that everyone come forward to bring their gifts to the Christ child. It was a very special time and really made it all very real.

## Grand Service of Inauguration

I am not sure how I can put into words the tremendous feelings we had on this special day when

our church in La Hoya was officially inaugurated by the Evangelical Church of the Dominican Republic. The pastors from all the IED churches in the southern region were present with representatives from their churches. Many pastors and congregational members also came from the capital and even as far as La Romana towards the east of the country. We are still considered a 'mission church' as we are new and have just taken in our first membership class of twelve baptized members. Pray that we will continue to grow and bring more lives to Christ in the days, months and years to come.



her baptism with Pastor Pedro. The water was a bit cold even for the Caribbean but we were filled with joy as Francia confirmed her commitment to follow Jesus by this outward act of her inward faith. Thanks be to God! She became one of our new members at the church's inauguration service. She has completed a series of discipleship classes and has already begun sharing her new faith with two of her co-workers.



## Joint service in Canoa

We were invited to participate in a joint service in a village near Bombita. Our church was asked to lead the service and I was given the privilege of delivering the message. The musical group from Bombita provided the music and whenever those boys are present, it is a wonderful service! Our young girls did a wonderful interpretive dance to "I Believe" and Diego and Amy performed a great skit I had found on You Tube. We were able to help a new pastor as he is trying to reach his village with the gospel. This is also the church where COPA's Bombita principal attends. I am really proud of her and feel excited that I was able to help lead her to accept the Lord! .



## Beach Baptism

Francia is one of our new believers and it was wonderful to go to the beach Quemeito to perform

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