

Greetings from Connie

December 2012

*Iglesia Evangélica Dominicana
Apartado 42 Barahona, Dominican Republic*



December Outreach Activity

Our congregation reached out to help a small church in Bombita by painting their church this month. We have been so blessed here in our congregation and we want to reach out to help others with the blessings we have received. Our other outreach this month was to make and distribute food to the less fortunate of La Hoya. This is always a favorite activity for our church. Under the able leadership of Sylvia and Francia, food was prepared for 40 people. It was then delivered and words expressing God's love were shared at each home.



Thanks to a wonderful donation from the United Methodist Women of First UMC Port Charlotte, we were able to provide a Christmas party for 60 children that attend our Sunday morning children's program. Each child received a gift as well as candies and a soda after hearing and participating in the Nativity play.



Congregational Development

Congregational development is a slow process, but I only need to think back to how things were in La Hoya when I arrived in 2002 to see and appreciate the amazing work God has done here bringing his Word to this village. Revival does not always happen in an explosion, but often happens through the slow burning of red hot embers. Thank you for your partnership in this birth and growth of a faith community.

Progressive Dinner

I always loved our church's progressive dinner so thought it might be fun to try to do something



Sunday School Christmas Party

like that here. It was a great success last year so we decided to repeat it and again, it was a wonderful success. Most houses are too small to accommodate a large group, so we just ate outside. We can always count on good weather this time of year so that is never a problem. The problem became more of feeding anyone and everyone who showed up and thought it looked like a good time (especially the neighborhood children!)



The dessert is always held at the church so it is my joy to work with some of the girls teaching them to make Christmas goodies! It was lots of fun and a great way to share the Christmas joy with our congregation.

Orphanage

The orphanage is not yet officially open, but Verona and some church members have begun working with a group of boys in preparation for the opening. They have been having weekly classes, getting to know the boys and developing relationships. Home visits have begun and a group of boys have been identified as the first residents. All of these boys do have some family members so are not officially orphans, but come from very difficult circumstances and the families are not able to care for the boys. A Christmas party was held for the boys and they really enjoyed playing games and, of course, receiving a special Christmas gift!



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General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church