



# *Greetings from Connie*

## *Winter 2013/2014*

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

### **First Annual March in La Hoya**

Encouraged by the amazing Christian marches held yearly in Bombita, we decided to try one in La Hoya. I must admit I was a bit skeptical about the success of such an activity in La Hoya, but the young leaders of our church were so excited to try it. Thanks to our wonderful musicians and friends from Bombita we were able to march through La Hoya on a late Saturday afternoon. We had invited other local churches and a number of their members came and marched with us. When our generator shut off we were initially discouraged as it was right in front of three bars, but we soon saw it as an opportunity to sing even longer in that location as the generator was given more oil and restarted! Instead of being there only 2 or 3 minutes we spent about 10 minutes singing praises to God witnessed by many, many people gathered at the bars. We are excited already about next year's march!



### **Christmas Meal**

As is our custom, we prepared a meal for about 40 people of the village that are the poorest. It is a time of great fellowship as we prepare and cook the food and then travel together to give out the food along with a short message about God's love. Just another way we are trying to reach La Hoya for Christ!



### **2nd Anniversary**

Although our new congregation began meeting in 2008, we celebrated our 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the formal

opening of the church on December 28, 2014. As you can see we remain a 'young' church though we have added a few older in age but young in their faith walk members.



## Immigration Issues

Immigration is a hot topic here in the Dominican Republic as it is in many countries. I was invited to attend a ceremony in Batey 6 (community of Haitians established because of the sugar cane industry) where legal papers were given to 120 sugar cane workers. The 'season' for sugar cane is December through May so these workers can work and travel to and from their country without fear of arrest or deportation. I have also begun a dialogue with the Foundation of Sugar Cane owners to discuss how we can work together to help the Haitians in the Bateys in many other ways. One of the first possibilities is to add music classes to COPA's school in Bombita with instruments provided by the Foundation. We also discussed other possibilities for microeconomic enterprises.



## Western N.C. Conference Medical Team

Every year we look forward to the arrival of the medical team from the Shelby, N.C. area as they come

to offer surgeries and medical outreach clinics. This year they performed 61 surgeries and held almost 600 individual consults in outlying areas of Barahona.



A Little girl named Reagan donated all her small stuffed animals for the children who would receive surgeries. The first boy is holding his gift along with Regan's picture. In the second picture you can see that the surgeon also put a similar wrapped bandage on the boys squirrel to match his wrap.



Paul and new friend capture the essence of the love shared and the hope given to the 'least of these.'



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