



# Greetings from Connie

## June/July 2013

Iglesia Evangélica Dominicana  
Apartado 42 Barahona, Dominican Republic

### Church Summer Camp

I remember seven years ago when I mentioned to Frankie Cross, leader of a work group from Brandon 1<sup>st</sup> UMC, how I wish we could provide a summer camp for our youth of La Hoya and Bombita like Aldersgate always had for our youth there. She looked at me and told me her son-in-law was the youth director at her church and she would ask him. Later that year we had our first youth camp and since then we have had one every other year. The youth love it and are already looking forward to the next one. I was in a bit of trouble this year, though, as the date overlapped with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade national exams so our 8<sup>th</sup> graders could not attend. Other than that, it was a wonderful experience for all involved!



Although Fermin had been quite weak and is waiting his liver transplant, he did an excellent job leading our worship services. One would never know he was so ill. Please pray for Fermin as he finishes the needed analyses and for his brother who is going to donate part of his liver.

The services were filled with presentations of dance, singing and various skits. The days were filled with games, shaving cream baseball being the all-time camp favorite! And as always our cooks did a superb job feeding 100 people three meals a day!



### Weddings

I was privileged to perform my first wedding in Spanish and the first for our new congregation. Rosalba and Ricardo were married on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July and it was a wonderful celebration. Rosalba was a COPA student and has gone on to graduation with a degree in psychology and serves as our Bombita school counselor. Ricardo is finishing his degree in computer science this summer. They will be building soon on a lot very near the church. They are great leaders in our church and wonderful role models for our young people.



Fermin and Ysenia were married on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June in Bombita. The outpouring of love for this couple was amazing and there is not quite anything like a wedding in Bombita! Pictured here is Fermin and Ysenia along with his two brothers, the one on the left is the one that will be donating part of his liver. Fermin works as youth director with COPA in Bombita and Ysenia is our teacher for the 4 year old class. We wish both couples God's greatest blessings!



**New Director's Visit**

A new director has been selected for COPA. Robert Hampton will be coming in October with his wife Alison. They came for a short weekend visit since they are working for the summer in the north of the DR. They said they were so excited about coming and were sorry they couldn't start right away. They will be a wonderful asset to the COPA program and to the villages. Here they are pictured with Diego and Yosi from Bombita standing in front of the church in La Hoya.



### **Christmas in July**

I have heard of celebrating Christmas in July but was still surprised when we received a large bag of Christmas cards this week. I looked at the postmarks and they were all from early to mid December. Now where could they have been all this time???

### **Volunteer Initiatives in La Hoya and Bombita**

It is so good to see active adult reading programs going on in both villages. What is exceptional nice is that they are both being implemented by other adults in the village on a volunteer basis. Also Manuela, a former COPA student who is now in the university, took it upon herself to conduct a summer school program for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students as she knows from helping in the classroom that they needed the extra help. The COPA spirit is catchy!!

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