



Greetings from Connie

January/2015

Iglesia Evangélica Dominicana
Apartado 42 Barahona, Dominican Republic

Christmas Babies

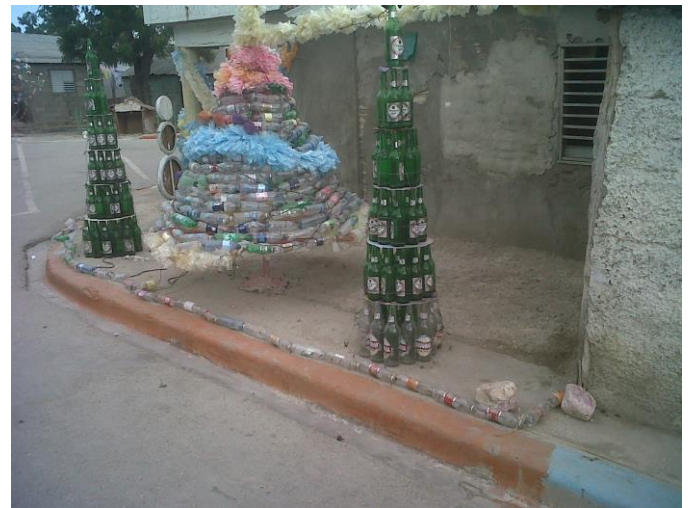
Felicita, a woman in Bombita received a triple blessing this Christmas! Triplets! Two of the girls are identical and the third is fraternal. They came home weighing 3 ½ pounds and all are doing well. What really makes this extra special is that Felicita already has a pair of fraternal twins, a pair of identical twins, a single birth and now, triplets!!! I asked her how many more she wants and she replied, “No way, enough!” You think????? Her oldest daughter, her first twin, has a set of twins herself. We were able to help with clothes thanks to our newborn ministry with Covenant UMC of High Point, N.C. and we will continue to help this special family.



This Christmas tree was made from small plastic bags and soda bottles.



This arrangement, well, used a combination of soda bottles, plastic bags, and of course, the all too available beer bottles!



Christmas Decorations

I always miss the beautiful Christmas decorations we have in the U.S., however, I am always amazed at the different ways they decorate here in the D.R. I saw one tree that was decorated with hanging CD's. They glittered with the wind and reflections of the lights! Bombita had a neighborhood decorating contest and everyone got very creative using the materials at hand.

Christmas Food for the Neediest

One of my most favorite activities in December is when we gather together to make and distribute food for 35 families that have the greatest need in La Hoya. This year we were joined by three young adults from the village that are not part of our church and have never participated before. Something drew them to us this day (God?) and I loved watching them get so involved and excited about what we were doing. They admitted that they had never experienced this type of joy and it was a wonderful opportunity to



explain how we, as Christians, experience this joy which is better than the joy that the world offers. One even apologized at the end of the evening as we gathered for a closing prayer. He said that in the past he had spoken badly about our church but that now he has seen what a church is really about and asked for forgiveness.



We deliver the food and pray for each family. It is a great evangelism outreach and an opportunity to tell people that God loves them!



Christmas Nativity

We always do an impromptu reenactment of the nativity in our Sunday school class, stopping the storas we choose someone from the group to dress and become that part of the story. On one trip home to the U.S., I picked up reindeer antlers so we have reindeer in our stable!



As we begin our new year, I ask for your prayers for patience in trusting in God's timing. I know what joy and fulfillment comes from a living relationship with Christ and I want that for all here. It is so hard for them to give up their old lives to accept the true life Christ has for them, but we will continue to live the Gospel and lead by example.

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