



Greetings from Connie ***October/2017*** ***Iglesia Evangélica Dominicana*** ***Apartado 42 Barahona, Dominican Republic***

I'm Back

I have been out of communication for some time now. I went on a short itineration in April thinking I would be gone only 2 months. During that time I also had my 3 year 'annual' checkup. During that checkup it was discovered that I had some medical concerns that required surgery. I did complete my two months visiting some of my amazing supporting churches in Indiana, Georgia, North and South Carolina and my home state of Florida. I was truly blessed during these visits and thank you to all these wonderful churches!

Then came the surgery and recuperation time. I was also blessed during this time in many ways and took it as a 'forced retreat.' My friend opened her home to me and it was a wonderful place to heal and rejuvenate physically and spiritually. The hardest part was not to be able to return to my work here in the Dominican during the summer when we had a wedding planned and youth camp! As you will see further along, they both went well without me! I am back now and being well spoiled by those around me here.

Yosi and Suleydi's Wedding

The cultural norm here is to just begin living together and that makes you 'married.' As Christians however, that is not ok. We celebrate when a Christian couple marries in the eyes of the law and in the eyes of God. Yosi has been so helpful in the growth of our church by coming every week to La Hoya to play the keyboard for our weekend services. God blessed him in many ways, one of which was his new wife, Suleiry, member of our congregation!



Yaraidy Feliz

Yaraidy has been called by God to begin seminary which will begin in February. She is in her last year at the university but since new classes in seminary only begin every 4 or 5 years she could not wait to finish her university so will do both simultaneously. Seminary classes are only on Fridays and Saturdays so she will be able to continue her last semester in the university at the same time. She has been an amazing young adult Christian as she works with the youth groups, teaches both children and adult classes (not at the same time), leads the liturgical dance group, and preaches.



Milky Way

When the power goes out, we enjoy God's light shows! Bombita 2017



Youth Camp 2017

When I told my youth leaders that I could not return for youth camp, I asked them if we should cancel it or if they were willing to lead it. After prayer, they said, “You have taught us to be leaders, we will lead it. BUT you have to write us everything we need to do!” And so camp went on! New Hope UMC is very experienced so together the camp went on without a hitch! Camp is such a special time here for the youth, both the youth of the church and the unchurched youth we are working with. It certainly is not anything that they take for granted.



Faces of Joy!

One of my greatest joys has been watching the youth of different races come together as one. There is still much racism in this country but in our little part, we are making a difference!



Service of Professions

It is so important to help young people have dreams of a future. Often when parents haven't continued their studies, they don't pass this dream on to their children. That is very true here where the only future painted for the girls is to get pregnant at an early age and have her 'man.' Yaraidy planned a 'Culto de Profesionales' inviting various people representing various professions to discuss the steps needed in continuing your studies. All were invited to come dressed in a profession they would like to pursue. One youth came dressed as a 'motoconcho,' a motor cycle taxi driver. Guess we still have work to do!



Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

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