



ISSUE 35 | JANUARY-MARCH 2025

## Ministry Updates

### School Ministry:

Las Palmas Christian School is a wonderful institution where kids of all ages can get an excellent education and be prepared for life as an adult, but it is so much more than that. All of our teachers are tasked with the great responsibility to show our students that with the proper foundation they can be world changers. They can certainly do this in a secular sense, but we want to show them how to do it from a spiritual standpoint. With a close personal relationship with God being their first priority, they can show others the love and grace that Jesus shows each one of us. They have a chance to go out into the world and live out our theme this year, "Más de Jesús, menos de mí" (More of Jesus, less of me). There are still so many of our students who have not surrendered their lives over to Christ, but we see God working in the hearts and minds of many of them. In our last newsletter we asked for prayer for one student in particular. On February 26th we received a letter from her saying that she was done running and had given her life to Jesus! The immediate change in her countenance and attitude is nothing short of a miracle. We are praying that God takes this new believer and uses her intelligence and experiences to influence others to give in to God's call for them to come to Him. This makes the high temperatures, the long days, and the restless nights all worth it. God is at work in the lives of people here in the DR and we are so grateful to be a small part of it. His goodness is unmistakable, and His mercy is everlasting. Thank you to all of you who prayed for these students by name. He heard you and He is faithful.

### Night to Shine

Many of you may be familiar with the ministry Night to Shine. This is a worldwide, prom-themed event, hosted by churches and sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, that celebrates individuals with special needs on the Friday before Valentine's Day. Hundreds of churches from around the world participate, hosting events simultaneously on the same night. For the last three years, one of our ministry partners Josiah's House, a family style Children's Home in the Dominican Republic, has hosted this event. Each participant is assigned a "buddy" for the evening and many of our youth participated. It was so wonderful watching our students serve in this way, stepping out of their comfort zones, and being a blessing. (See pics below)



2025 is in full swing, and the Eastwood Crew has so much to be grateful for. JT and Jorge continue to serve as coaches for the Grace and Truth soccer league and Jonny continues to play soccer for a local club in San Pedro. It's wonderful to see them using the talents God has gifted them with. Jonathan got invited to play for the travel team which was an honor for him. Jorge has been using his musical talents serving on the youth group's worship team, and JT has had the opportunity to be the photographer for the soccer club and a few ministry events. Time goes by much too quickly these days. On March 25th we celebrated JT's 17th birthday. We were just bringing him home from the hospital, I blinked, and now he is a young man. We are so proud of him, and we look forward to the many ways God will use him.

Family Happenings



## Friday Night Youth Ministry

We started Youth group back up in January after Christmas break. The kids were excited to get back to it and so were we. Our first service back we had a mission team that was here from Mississippi. This service was extra special for a few reasons. We always tend to have good attendance but when I did a head count this evening, we had 125 people in the building! That's not the best part though. After the message was delivered, an invitation was given, and four teens gave their life to Christ this night. Groups that come don't always get to see the impact they have but tonight was an exception. They left knowing that they were here for this specific time for this specific purpose. As an encouragement, don't ever stop planting seeds because others come along and water those seeds but God gives the increase. On another night we had fellow missionary Craig McClure come and preach. His testimony was very impactful for the teens showing them that often we feel lonely in our quest to serve God, but we are never alone because He is with us. We are in the process of teaching our young people to stand firm in their faith with the example of the life of Daniel, and that God is more than they think from the life of Joseph. Another blessing was watching one of our young ladies follow the Lord in believer's baptism. Angelica, who was saved last year, took this step to show her peers that she is not ashamed. Pray for her as she is discipled and grows in her walk with Christ. We are still in need of more people to disciple the youth that have made decisions. Will you commit to pray for this need?

## Driftwood Cove

We live on one of the most beautiful islands in the world, with some of the most gorgeous stretches of beaches. If you know the Eastwood Boys, then you know their propensity for adventure. We are always searching for new places to explore so I thought I would highlight one place in particular. We discovered this spot by "accident" one day, but it has become one of our favorite places to go. The boys have nicknamed it "Driftwood Cove" (rights to that name are pending). It looks like something out of a movie from its natural beauty and surroundings. This small cove is full of coral reefs to investigate, and big waves to ride. The boys go fishing, kayak, and hike here, and we usually build a campfire and roast marshmallows. This is such a tranquil place for us to spend family time, but the best thing about it is IT'S FREE! We are glad to have these little places to get away from the city bustle and take some much-needed down time from a busy week of ministry. Some of our best laughs and conversations have taken place here as we enjoy another fantastic piece of artwork from the Almighty Creator Artist.



*Baptisms*  
Angelica is  
baptized



**Thank you Lord for  
Driftwood Cove!**

## **We LOVE Hosting!**

Our family had 2 sets of visitors in 2025. One was longtime friends of ours, Brian and Diana. This was so special for us not only to reconnect and reminisce about our many years of friendship (almost 30 of them), but we also got to show them our version of paradise and what God has called us to do. We also had one of our amazing supporting churches, Aurora Baptist Church from Texas come see us and serve alongside us. We love it when people drop by to see us. We seek to be a blessing to them but as it turns out they are a huge blessing to us. Visits like this are often the fuel we need to keep going in the never-ending summers. When are you coming to visit us?

## **Gratitude & Prayer Requests**

As I write these words, I only hope that the amount of thankfulness and gratitude that we have shows through in my words. I am continually in awe of the fact that God keeps using our family and others to be a small part of His Kingdom work here in the DR. We are grateful for salvations. We are grateful for baptisms. We are grateful for an amazing team of folks we get to serve alongside. We are grateful for the teams of people that come on mission trips. We are grateful for people who pray and give. But more than anything, we are grateful for Jesus. Without His sacrifice on the cross for our sins, none of this is possible. Please continue in prayer for the Eastwood family. We have some big decisions to make in the near future and our desire is to keep doing what God has called us to do. As you are certainly aware, this takes finances to do effectively. We are currently looking for a few more churches and individuals to partner with us financially. We already know that God has the right people to help us with this and we hope that it's you!



*Night to Shine*

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