

The Cunninghams Serving In The Dominican Republic



Dear Friends and Family

October 2025



On September 21, 2025, IBERS celebrated 14 years of God's faithfulness and fruitful ministry in the community of Ramón Santana! It was a day filled with gratitude, laughter, special guests, music, and—of course—cake! Pastor Félix invited one of his longtime spiritual mentors, a true "father in the faith," to bring a powerful message of encouragement and a challenge to keep shining brightly as a light in our community. It was a beautiful reminder that God's work in Ramón Santana continues because of His faithfulness and the steadfast love of His people.

Each week as we drive into the city, we never quite know what awaits us. Some Sundays, we are greeted with no electricity at all! It becomes a lively game of "run to the inverter, turn on the generator, now turn it off—wait, the power's back—no, it's out again!" All the while, we're praying that the sound system keeps running even if the lights and fans do not. The heat can be intense, but as we look around the room, we see smiling faces and hear voices lifted in worship. Despite the sweat and discomfort, there is genuine joy.

We sometimes laugh at how our "first-world problem" mindset has changed over these years. Gone are the padded chairs and climate-controlled sanctuaries we remember from the States. Here, our plastic chairs creak under the strain, and if someone leans back too far—snap! But no one complains. There is contentment, there is gratitude, and there is praise. These moments remind us that true worship isn't about comfort—it's about the condition of the heart.

We share this not as a complaint, but as a testimony. Living and serving here for the past 14 years has taught us that there is so much you can live without—and so much more that truly matters. We've learned that joy doesn't depend on comfort, but on contentment; not on abundance, but on gratitude. We are thankful for the privilege of serving in Ramón Santana, and for the lessons God continues to teach us about simplicity, perseverance, and faith.

Thank you for standing with us—through your prayers, encouragement, and support. You are part of every smile, every song, and every transformed heart that God is touching here. Together, we continue to shine His light in this little corner of the world.

Because He Came, We Must GO

John & Lyan