

THE OLIVERIA FAMILY

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Arrival in the Dominican Republic.
- The Church in Villa Paraiso
- Different Ministry Opportunities
- Vocational School

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To See The Glory

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We Have Arrived

Well, at this point in our lives we have arrived in the Dominican Republic. Thank you to family, friends and brothers and sisters in Christ who have prayed or financially supported us.

September 5th we made our start in this country. First by moving into a house that did not quite work for us, mostly due to the darkness even during the day within the walls. Then by buying a vehicle that is in a condition I would have not considered in the states for a family vehicle. However, it does have 4-wheel drive to keep us from getting stuck on the drive up the mountain to the village.

Praise God with us for everything He has provided so far. We are making our attempt to adjust



The Oliveria Family: Shawn, Jessica, Jeremy, Joshua, Heather, Samuel, Josiah and Silas

to completely different living. The most normal part of our lives is in the house we are in now, yet the bugs are making **sure that we don't get too comfortable** as well. (I am not telling these things as complaints, but

only to give the reader an understanding of the conditions here.)

Please keep our family in prayer as we adjust to our new surroundings.

Island Light Ministries

From the ministry website: "Island Light is a ministry with the goal of reaching people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, teaching them to love God; to grow in the knowledge and grace of God and to share His love and life with others through the power of His Holy Spirit. Based on the

north coast of the Dominican Republic, Island Light ministries is involved in churches and Bible studies, youth ministries and outreaches, community renewal **programs and feeding the poor.**"

We met the founders of ILM back in 2007. Jim and Debra

Tunncliffe had a vision of working in Sosua, D.R. and I believe God put us together to work with them and we are seeing God working out some of those details now.

See the site at: www.IslandLightMinistries.org

Church in Villa Paraiso



La Clase de Danza
Jessica Teaching

As we begin working with Jim and Debra in Villa Paraiso we are seeking God for the ways we should serve. For Jessica one of those ways is dance. She is working with a group of young girls teaching them worship dances to a couple of Spanish versions of worship songs that we are familiar with in the States.

Nothing is easy here and this includes the dance class. The class size can vary from week to week. The floors are ce-

ment and we turn the pews to use them for bars. Some of the girls are very excited about the class and try hard to learn all they can.

Jessica plans to have about 5 girls perform the dance in front of the church.

My involvement has been more of a deacon/elder position, opening the church during the week, operating the sound system, preparing song slides, **running video for children's** church many other jobs that I

am learning.

Our children have played a role in attracting the children to the church along with some of their parents. Josh and Heather have friends here now and spend time talking and doing some teaching in a couple of the houses. The people love to feed Josh, but the motives may be more matrimonial in nature. This has become sort of our joke, but it does come with some benefits of good food and budding friendships.

“So the van with seats for nine can hold more than 20 at times.”

Culture Shock

Jessica and I have both been to the Dominican Republic on various short term trips and we were well aware of the differences in culture, however, knowing the differences and living the differences are completely different.

Since not many can afford a vehicle they are use to piling into cars in numbers unheard of in the U.S. Since we are the proud owners of a guagua (taxi

van) we end up transporting some from another village to the church in Paraiso. So the van with seats for nine can hold more than 20 at times.

Just in case you don't believe me I have included a photo of a light load on the way down.

Driving itself is a culture shock, throw common sense out the window, such as parking off the street or using headlights

on a motorcycle.



Not shown are the two behind the back seat and two in front.

Change Our Hearts Lord

The prayer God has placed in my heart has been one of revival. I believe that God is calling His people, both those who have gone astray and those who have yet to come to the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

This message of revival was also repeated along our route from Oregon to Florida. God has put this message on other brothers and sisters throughout the USA.

I am asking you to take a **moment and really “soul search”** - are you walking with the Lord or watching from a distance?

Be honest.

The Lord desires us to have a close relationship with Him. **Don't let anything** get in the way of your relationship with our heavenly Father!

Reconcile with Him, the price was paid and forgiveness is yours. Let Jesus wash your feet.

Enter His courts with Thanksgiving and Praise



Feeding Program



Lewis handing out dried soup

bag per house and there is enough for at least one more distribution.

Our family participated in handing out the food in Villa Nazaret (Nazareth.)

A team from Canada passed out the soup here in Villa Paraiso.

We hope that each encounter opens doors for ministry, something as simple as giving away food can open hearts to hear the message of Christ.

We had the opportunity to hand out bags of dried soup mix. These bags contained enough dried vegetables, noodles and more to make up to 100 servings of soup (sopa.) So far two villages have received 1



Silas helping Debra Tunnicliffe pass out food.

“we can give them some of our food”
Silas
Oliveria, 6

Why Are You Here?

I was asked this question by Lewis who has been helping out at the church by leading worship and more. My answer? I will tell you in a bit. Before he asked this question he was asking other questions about us liking it here and I told him it was a little difficult and that some things are really different. He asked about our house back in the states and I told him we don't have

one anymore, that we sold it and our vans. He had a quizzical look on his face, and then asked why we were here.

“God told me to come.” I said. It seemed to take about a minute for Lewis to think about the answer, as if it still made no sense to him. This has had me pondering, why send us here were there are already so many different missionaries? Is this

the question that Lewis had in his mind as well? The answer that keeps coming back to me is this: The Lord has a big plan for His children here—some of whom **don't even know they are His children yet.**

Joshua just walked up to me to tell me of a dream he had of us going into a home that the devil was **keeping people in...**

Peace and Contentment

Like the disciples as they went out to different cities preaching about Jesus and His love covenant, we are here with your brothers and sisters in Christ. As Paul was writing to his fellow believers about different churches in areas that God had sent him, I am writing to you. Pray for your brothers and sisters here in Villa Paraiso. Allow God to stir in your heart how you may give to

this church body in order to further the kingdom of God.

If you are like me and you look at **what you have and say I don't have enough to give, stretch your faith and trust God to supply for your needs. I am now learning how poorly I trusted God in my finances. Something I always struggled with, always feeling like I did not**

have enough to give. But I believe that is how God works, not through our abundance but from our lack does He bless. I have seen so many who gave from their lack and were blessed with peace and contentment not of this world.



Friends in Villa Paraiso

To See the Glory

The Oliveria Family

Donations:

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Cell Phone: 829-493-9374

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The Oliveria family is independently supported by individuals who have felt the call to help them fulfill their call to the Dominican Republic. If you want to be part of the financial support team donations can be made to Island Light Ministries either at www.IslandLightMinistries.org or by using the address to the left. (Be sure to note for the Oliveria Family.)

We appreciate your prayer and financial support.

www.ToSeeTheGlory.org

Vocational School

Please be praying for guidance with the vocational school. There are many people involved in planning and who are working on attaining the finances for the building and equipment for the school.

The plan at this point is to begin building in November and to be ready to start classes in February. There are still funds needed. The need for teachers willing to commit to 1 month to 3 month stays here in the country to teach the skills needed for each vocation being taught.

I am being asked to head up the running of the school and specifically help in the woodshop.

The vision for the vocational school was something God put in me years ago. But my ways were not His ways. I sort of abandoned this thought until

recently Jim told me about the plan for a woodshop vocational school. It was a small vision of a small building and only a couple of vocations being taught. Now the vision has grown. There is another location that has been purchased and the plans for the building size has more than doubled from the original plan. The position



Baseball practice in the field where the vocational school.

that I would be handling is way over my head, beyond what I have ever done before, yet I believe that this is **all God's idea. He puts us where we need Him**, where we have to ask Him to do the work.

If you are asking why a vocational school? We see the need to help the people (especially the heads of households) to work. We believe that all should work for their food and have the ability to do that. God **doesn't want His children to be beggars**, He wants us to be givers! How can we give if we are only focused on how to get our next meal to survive?

Why give a man a fish if you could teach him to fish? As we do this we also want to make them fishers of men. How grateful a person is who learns a skill to provide for his family.