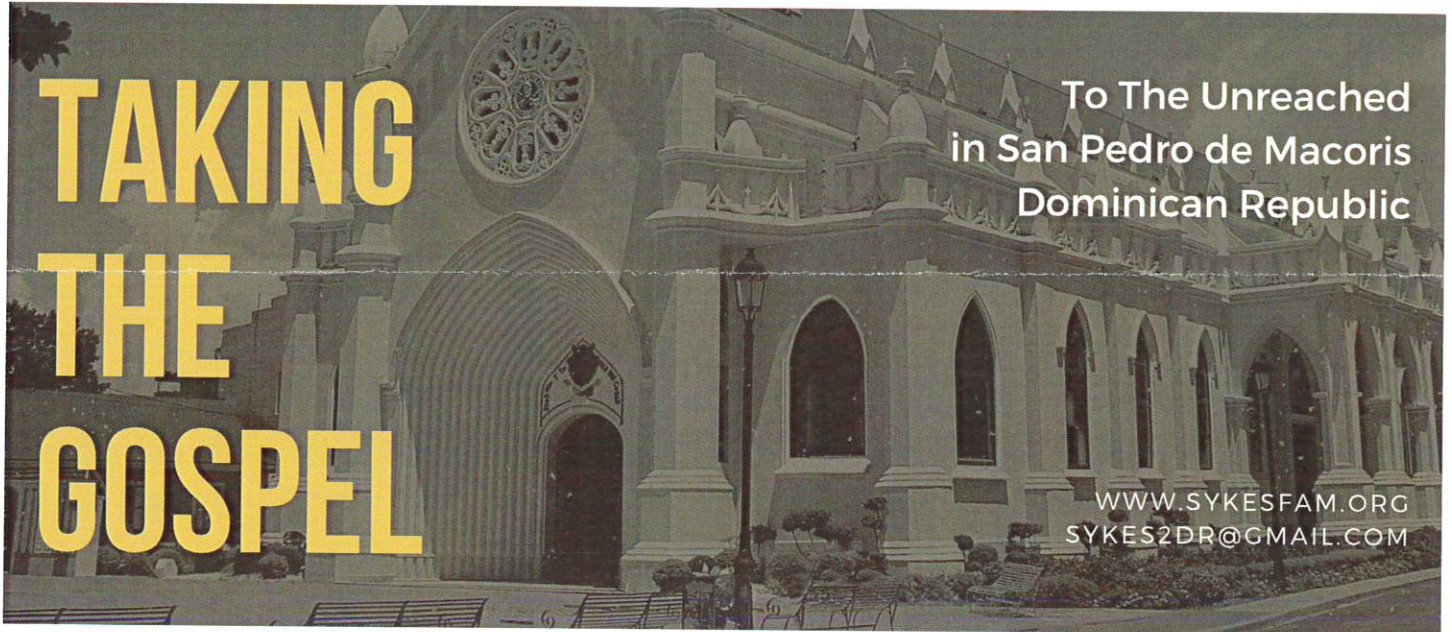


# THE SYKES MISSIONARY TIMES

Missionaries to the Dominican Republic



## MINISTRY IN FULL SWING

Greetings from San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic. We praise God for bringing us here and the ministry opportunities He has given us here. We are still in the throws of COVID. In fact, we were just issued another curfew. During the week we have to be inside our home by 6 p.m. The weekend is 3 p.m. Despite the curfew, we have had tremendous ministry opportunities. God is definitely at work and we are excited to be a part of the Great Commission.

## WHAT GOD IS DOING!

Our family is so excited to be a part of various ministry opportunities. I would like to share briefly regarding each ministry and What God is doing!

**TEENS** - God has given us a wonderful teen group. We gather with approximately 50 teens every Friday evening for a time of fun as well as devotion. God has given us a great group with tender hearts. We have invited some kids from the community and they have come with us to the teen activities as well. This is exciting because it is allowing us to form gospel relationships right outside our front door.

**UNIVERSITY STUDENTS** - We have had an awesome opportunity to have a discipleship-type relationship with our university students. We have focused much on the importance of the gospel and our responsibility as believers to be faithful messengers with God's message. We currently have approximately 3 students attending. We are about to begin a series on understanding the gospel to help give them the confidence in sharing their faith. We love the interaction we have with the students, and the conversations have been deep. The common denominator has been regarding having an intimate walk with God and being faithful with His message. I am excited to see what God is doing and will continue to do through this group!

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*"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."*

1 THESSALONIANS 5:24





## SEMINARY RE-LAUNCH

Another huge blessing has been the relaunch of the seminary. This past week we had our first class (evangelism). Our focus is on the gospel and the Gospel and the Great Commission. The focus is to give these six people the tools they need to be effective communicators of the Gospel. To me, there is nothing more exciting than discipling believers in their walk with God and helping them being faithful stewards of God's most precious message. Please pray for us as even this next week we have to meet via zoom because of a new curfew imposed. We are hoping that the curfew will only be for a week. Please also pray for the students. We are preparing gospel messengers for the most important spiritual task in the world. Please pray for me as I walk hand in hand with these pastors and laypeople. I see my responsibility as very important and I want to be a good steward of this opportunity that God has given me.

## WE NEED HELP!

When we left Venezuela in 2018, we needed to raise more support to be here in the Dominican. The cost of living for Venezuela was much lower than it is here. We were working hard to schedule meetings and then COVID hit! We were able to see one church and an individual take us on for support before arriving here in the Dominican. God has been gracious, but we cannot continue on without raising our level of support. We are considering all options. We may be returning next year for a short stay (1 month) and I will try to schedule some meetings for that time. Many of you we know from ministry or college years. Could/Would you consider helping us in a couple of ways? First, would you consider referring us to your pastor and church to potentially present the ministry? Second, if you are an individual reading this, would you consider partnering with us on a monthly basis. Even \$25 per month could be a tremendous help. If you are interested in donating you can do so through Paypal on our website [www.sykesfam.org](http://www.sykesfam.org)

## THANK YOU

Thank you for your faithfulness. We have experienced the ministry of prayer and we are so thankful for those who prayerfully uplift us. We are also thankful for your financial gifts and the sacrificial gift you make for our family on a regular basis. You are making an eternal investment in lives here and only eternity will tell what our investment has done.

## NEW PODCAST



Be sure to check out [visionlife365.org](http://visionlife365.org). You will not be disappointed! We launched a new podcast to be a blessing to missionaries, pastors, and laypeople. We talk about ministry and investing in lives. You are sure to be challenged and you might even laugh now and then!

*San Pedro is nicknamed "the city of the Holy Spirit." There is a strong Pentecostal and charismatic influence, along with 7th Day Adventists and cults such as Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormonism. All of these religions, coupled with traditional Catholicism, have left people confused and still spiritually lost. Many have been part of multiple religions and churches with this in common — either trying to "earn" salvation or trying to "maintain" salvation by their works. It's in this darkness that there is a great opportunity to shine the light of the gospel - the message of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ*

- Missionary Gary Hale

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray that we can raise additional support as soon as possible
- Please pray for Jesus opportunities in our community
- Please pray as we invest in lives through discipleship
- Please pray for COVID restrictions to be lifted.