

THE SYKES MISSIONARY TIMES

Missionaries to the Dominican Republic



TAKING THE GOSPEL

To The Unreached
in San Pedro de Marcoris
Dominican Republic

WWW.SYKESFAM.ORG
SYKES2DR@GMAIL.COM

MOVING FORWARD!

It has been a joy to visit several of our supporting partners in recent months. We are so appreciative of the encouragement and prayer as we launch into this new facet of ministry and life in the Dominican Republic. We are overwhelmed by the stories of churches and individuals who faithfully prayed for us, especially when we were in Venezuela. I cannot tell you how much that means to us. You genuinely have no idea how many times God answered your prayers. I have plenty of stories to report about the crazy and dangerous moments we faced. I also have plenty of stories to tell you of how God protected us in those moments because we had faithful folks back here in the United States praying for us.

It is exciting to begin this next step of our missionary journey. It is also a blessing to see how God is blending our Venezuela experience with our Dominican Republic ministry. We have already made several casual contacts with Venezuelan families who have fled Venezuela and are now living in the Dominican. Although we currently cannot minister from within Venezuela, it is encouraging that we can still influence by evangelizing and discipling Venezuelans within the Dominican to share their faith with their friends and family.

The gospel is multicultural and not hindered by geographical boundaries. I love how this philosophy was shared with me while we were recently in the Dominican. It is not about the national or the gringo, black or white, rich or poor. We all need the gospel, and we all need God's grace! Regardless of nationality, we are excited about this new opportunity to be stewards of the gospel.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Moving Forward! - 1
- How Can You Help? - 2
- Thank You! - 2

“The will of God is always a bigger thing than we bargain for, but we must believe that whatever it involves, it is good, acceptable and perfect.”

— Jim Elliot



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

There are a couple of ways you can be a blessing as we move into this next phase of ministry. We need to raise some additional support. One of the best ways to do this is through referrals. Most of you who are receiving this letter know us either from our ministry travels or from college life. Would you consider taking some time to help connect us with people that are missions-minded and who may be interested in partnering with us? Allow me to put your mind at ease. We realize that every contact will not turn into a partnership. We are looking for missional relationships. As a missionary, I don't like the "ask" part of my job. It is uncomfortable. The only thing that has made it more palatable is the realization that I am not asking for me. I am asking because God has called me to do something for His kingdom. With that said, I can easily trust that God will provide the necessary partners to get the gospel to the Dominican Republic and the surrounding Latin American world. We each have an essential job in this process, and I am merely asking that you ask God to show you how you can be involved.

What I love about this new ministry phase is that I finally feel that I have something tangible that I can offer in return. We have a long-established and successful ministry team in the Dominican. We also have a relatively stable economy and low crime level. That makes travel to the Dominican economical. Consider taking a short-term mission trip and visiting the work that is up and running. There are also satellite ministries and church plants where you can invest your time as well. We also have internships available if you are interested in a deeper level of involvement. The point is that we need partners to enable us to continue the work on the field. We also need more missionaries to work alongside us to get out the most crucial message in the world, the gospel.

THANK YOU!

I always want to make gratitude a part of every correspondence. Without faithful partners we cannot do what we do. The spiritual fruit produced as a result of your investment is fruit to your account and fruit to our account. Thank you for being faithful. Please prayerfully consider what we have shared with you in this letter. Ask God how you can get involved. You can easily contact us through our email; sykes2dr@gmail.com. You can also contact us via our website; www.sykesfam.org.

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 needed support as soon as possible
- Please pray as we will be beginning the paperwork process for our residency
- Please pray for safety in travel as we will be traveling much in the spring and summer
- Please pray for God to begin preparing hearts