

Allens in the Dominican Republic

Prayer Requests

- Run the race God has planned without getting sidetracked
- Ability to maintain current relationships well, while developing a new community of friends in Corocito.
- Family unity and quality time during so much transition.
- God to open the hearts of the community.
- Ramon and Merrillio

Praises!

- Safely back in the DR.
- Renovation started on the house.
- Generosity of our family, friends and supporters!
- God's continual faithfulness!!



In some ways it feels like we were never gone, in other ways it feels like we were absent for an eternity. When we left for the U.S. last July, our plan was to have purchased the land in Corocito and have a friend/engineer oversee the renovations while we were gone. God had other plans for us and instead we came home to a totally packed up house and zero progress on the house in Corocito. In the month and a half since our return, we have reconnected with many friends as well as made some new ones. We have unpacked what is needed for a couple months, gotten our vehicle up to speed, hired some neighbors in Corocito to help us renovate, and hosted 11 people over the course of a month and a half. Together with our hired neighbors and teams/friends we have come up with a strategy for the work on the house (which may have been half the battle), raised all the walls, run new electrical, checked and made some plumbing changes,

chiseled endless hours (thanks Jon), retiled the bathrooms, prepared the homeschool room, and are almost ready to put a roof on the house!

Upon our return to the DR we had what seemed like endless options and countless decisions to make. It was really overwhelming quite honestly. We have been amazed at how God has provided and taught us through all these decisions. God sent the perfect people to help get a direction and start progress. He sent the perfect people to help with the homeschool room. He sent the perfect person who didn't consider chiseling broken tile in a bathroom for two days beneath him. He sent the perfect person to help get the wiring started, the plumbing up to par and the bathrooms retiled. He even sent the perfect people to love and encourage us over the last six weeks since we have been home.

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“..but God gave the increase.”

HOPEFUL HEART

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In all this chaos there have been many lessons. Romans 8:28 is a verse many Christians are familiar with and even memorize – “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” I have *known* this is truth for as long as I remember but over the last few months I have *experienced* this truth. The title for the land did not come through until after the engineer was out of the country, keeping him from beginning the work. But it has allowed us to shift to doing a lot of the work ourselves and with teams. It has allowed us to hire our neighbors and work alongside them. Two men, Merillio and Ramon, have heard countless conversations about God, seen Him work, and developed a relationship with us that would not have happened otherwise. Please pray with us for these two men that God would do a mighty work in their lives and that they would develop a personal relationship with Jesus. Other things have happened that we don't yet understand and may never, but we can be confident that these things are also working together for good. Derrick's brother came to help and fell his first full day here. He shattered his elbow into six pieces and is in surgery as I type this.

Derrick was backing up the van to turn around and hit a tree that was concealed by a hanging cloth and it busted out the back window of our van. It was horribly frustrating in the moment, but it didn't catch God off guard. It is a huge relief to be able to move on from these things trusting that God is in control and they happened for good.

We are very excited about several relationships we have already made within the community of Corocito. We are also encourage by opportunities we have had to share Christ with people we have been working with for years here in town including some students we have deep relationships with at the school where we were working. We hope to be able to share the news soon that we have begun having church services in Corocito. Please pray with us for God's timing on this to be evident and for open hearts in the area.

In Christ,

Derrick and Katie Allen