



# Allens in the Dominican Republic

## PROGRESS AND PROVISION IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC

Derrick and I have many areas where our strengths and weaknesses complement each other but unfortunately taking pictures and writing updates are definitely not strengths for either of us. Despite the perpetual goal to be better at it we always seem to come up short. We apologize that it has been so long since we have sent out a formal update.

Like most of the world, the Dominican Republic shut down mid-March. I mean we really shut down. Basically only banks, grocery stores, gas stations, and medical facilities stayed open. We had a 5 pm curfew and anyone who broke it was thrown in jail until morning and fined. We stayed shut down for a few months and are slowly reopening. They have extended our curfew a few times and it is currently 7 pm on weekends and 9 pm weekdays.

Our community had many families that were left with no source of income. This gave Derrick and me an opportunity to meet the needs through the church. Together, with a neighbor and church member, we passed out 20-30 food packages each week. Derrick was able to write a small devotional and share words and verses of encouragement each week. There are a few families that have ongoing needs but we are down to 2-5 packages a week. Many thanks to all of you who gave specifically towards the food program.

We were able to open church again in June. We elected to end meeting in our

house and have held services outside in the shade of some trees. We have slowly grown and now have around 30 people in attendance each week. Praise God one sweet lady came to know Christ and we have seen a lot of growth in several other individuals.

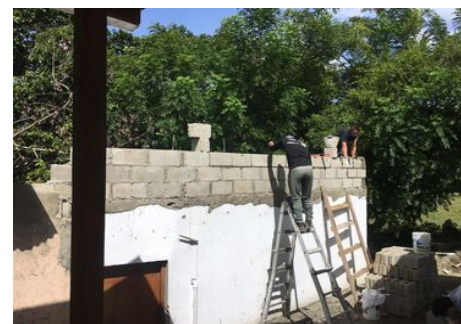


*Worshipping together on Sunday mornings*

Another organization in Jarabacoa, Caribbean Mountain Academy (CMA), has been doing some community outreach by helping us with several projects throughout the summer and this fall. We have built a retaining wall along the entrance field to prevent our driveway from falling off into the baseball field. We constructed a much needed perimeter fence and now we no longer have cows grazing outside our windows every night!! We also tore down the two story building that was deemed unsound. We are currently in the middle of raising the roof of the wood shop.



*Bringing it down!*



*Raising the roof on the wood shop to increase air circulation and make room for Derrick!*

The last few weeks have been weeks of major changes and lots of progress. Leading up to all this progress is a beautiful example of God's faithfulness.

We have always known that the shelter of the shade tree was temporary solution for our church family. As we prayed and discussed and sought outside opinions and insights we would come up with a plan but despite efforts we didn't seem to make progress. This happened a couple different times. However, when the timing was right - God's timing - the location, the structure type, the architect, the laborers, and the funding all came together in a short time. After many attempts to find an architect, one of our first choices got back to us after not hearing from him for a long time. We met, and while he was drawing up the plans, a stranger stopped by for a tour and fully funded the projected cost!!



*Plans for the new worship center*

Over the last two years there have been many lessons learned. We have been a part of many victories, many failures, many days of immense encouragement and days of deep discouragement. Through all the ups and downs and changes the one thing that continually stands out is God's faithfulness. When we have been pushed to our max with no end in sight He has given strength. When we have needed financial resources, He has provided. When we have needed encouragement He has been gentle and kind. In our failures He has taught us and He has given us a spirit of gratefulness in the blessings.

Thank you all for being faithful partners with us in God's work and allowing us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community of Corocito!

Dios te bendiga (God bless you),

Derrick, Katie, Ellie, Beckham and Bria



*Watch out! Beckham and Bria are taking over!*



*Quiz: What happened to Derrick?*

- A) Katie sucker-punched him*
- B) Derrick picked the wrong wasp to mess with*
- C) The kids won the wrestling match*

Answer: B

## CONTACT US

Email:

[derrickandkatie@gmail.com](mailto:derrickandkatie@gmail.com)

Web:

[hopegrowshere.org](http://hopegrowshere.org)  
[derrickandkatieallen.weebly.com](http://derrickandkatieallen.weebly.com)

Instagram:

[derrickallen8](https://www.instagram.com/derrickallen8)

Lots of progress on our property

Gods faithfulness clearly demonstrated