



*The Cunninghams
Serving In
The Dominican Republic*



DEAR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

August 2023

What a difference a summer makes!!! I (John) arrived back in San Pedro on June 25 after helping my sister with some of the arrangements for my dad and his estate after his passing in May. I hit the ground running! Many of you have met Diomaris. She is part of the Leadership Team with Lynn at Las Palmas Christian School. She has been part of the ministry of DR Vision since we first started visiting in 2008. She and I took a walk through the house that was built in the 1940s and has since been converted into the Elementary area of Las Palmas. There were issues with pipes, electricity, old doors, and a lot of other "inconveniences." She expressed her desire to remodel the bathrooms. She also mentioned that a beam that had previously been installed for support be covered because she was afraid that it looked like we were "not safe!" The engineer, Alejandro, and I have become good friends. He is a Christian and sees his work as a way to please the Lord and bring honor to Him by doing his best work. We have spent many days together coming up with ideas and ways to make changes. What started as a bathroom remodel and possibly finding a way to cover an exposed beam, turned into a complete remodel including new wiring throughout the building, extending 2 small classrooms, replacing all doors with new metal ones that are safer and actually shut! The remodel included all new paint, drop ceilings, new lighting, cabinets up on the walls rather than taking space in the already small classrooms, a new office for the Elementary Principal, safety bars on the exit doors, and the most beautiful wood doors on the outside porch. It is truly a WOW sight to see!

We didn't stop there! The Lord provided the funds through careful handling of finances during the year – and generous donations by some that love and support the ministry – to redo the recess area! The playground turned into a literal lake during heavy rains! New drains were put in, small gravel conducive for play was spread, and enough money was collected by a parent through a GO Fund Me effort to buy new equipment for the children to enjoy!

The heat has been overwhelming some days. However, watching it all come together and knowing it is going to be a blessing to the teachers and students as they return makes the work worth the while. The next step is going to be praying for a way to air condition the classrooms. The heat is too much and it is difficult to teach or to try to sit and learn when the heat is so intense.

In September, IBERS will celebrate its anniversary, and the most exciting thing will be that we will finally be able to organize as a church – with its own constitution and bylaws and be recognized by the government as an official church rather than just a church plant! More to come about that next month!

Because He Came We Must GO

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