



Our summer was awesome! The 2023-24 school year has started off with a bang! JT is in 9th grade this year. He is working hard to get good grades and he's still getting some chances to use his talents in photography and videography at the school and other places. Jorge is in high school y'all! In the DR there is no middle school so 7-12 grade HS begins and believe me, it is quite an adjustment. He has done very well despite all the extra homework and projects. He has added a few more residents to his fish tank, all of which he caught himself (of course). Jonny is in 5th grade, and he is doing great. He has been working on his leadership skills in his classes. He's a natural at this (he gets it from his momma). He loves sports and he's also taken up spearfishing with his big brother. We are grateful for how they are growing in the Lord, but they are growing up too fast!



The boys and JT's buddies spearfishing

ISSUE 29 | NOVEMBER 2023

Ministry Update

School Ministry:

This year Veronica is teaching science as usual, but I have the opportunity to teach Bible class this year to the 10th and 11th graders. Veronica is so good at biblical integration in her classes. She has the opportunity to give her students the proper worldview and demonstrate how amazing our Creator is. My Bible classes this year are focused on our purpose and identity that is only found in a relationship with Jesus Christ. This has been such a great topic and the students have been engaged and inquisitive. There are still so many of our students that do not know the Lord so please pray that through these platforms that they respond to God's Word. Our senior class this year will be the largest graduating class in Las Palmas history. This is our last chance to pour into them and build relationships that will hopefully have a lasting impact. Please pray with us that the truths of the Bible that they learn will stay with them and will empower them to be world changers for the kingdom of God.

Friday Night Youth Ministry

After the summer break, youth ministry has started off great! We are using the curriculum from Word of Life. It is geared toward teenagers, is very engaging, and presents the Gospel message clearly. Our Friday nights are awesome because we can grow in the relationships that we've started at Las Palmas, plus we can pour into the other youth who come from other areas. We have so much fun, but our end goal is to help them see their great need for a Savior because, without Him, life is meaningless. Pray for soft hearts and ears to hear as we minister to these young people.

Marriage:

Veronica and I had the blessing of going to a marriage retreat during the summer in Michigan. Honestly, I was skeptical at first, but boy was I wrong! It was such an uplifting experience and gave us so many practical tools to implement. These tools help us with better communication and loving each other like Jesus. We left there with a renewed passion and drive for our marriage to be everything God wants us to be in Him.



12th & 11th Graders attending a CHOICES career conference.

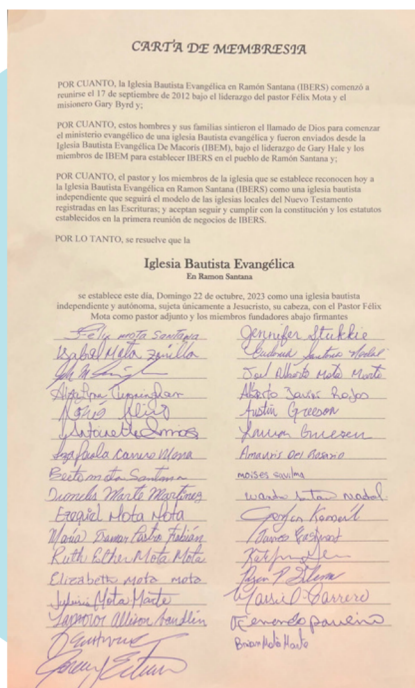
Ramon Santana Update:

In September, the Ramon Santana congregation celebrated their 11 year anniversary. It was a special day. For those of you who don't know, our church in Ramon Santana was planted 11 years ago out of the larger mother church here in San Pedro de Macoris. We have recently begun the process of transitioning from a mission of IBEM, to a self-governing independent church. This has include starting a formal church membership process, instating official leadership, and teaching the congregation on the biblical duties of a church member. Please pray as this change

takes place and that people see places where they can use their gifts to serve and get more involve in the local church body. The charter members signed the church consitution in October. We praise God for this. We had three people baptized in September and we also observed the Lord's Supper that same Sunday. Ramon Santana and all of its residents need Jesus! So, pray along with us that through this transitional period, we can be a beacon of light and demonstrate the love of Jesus as we continue to serve in this community and grow as the body of Christ.

Eli and Charlie

We had the privilege to have our good friend Eli Elmore and his buddy Charlie Woods come to the DR for a visit in September. They came to use their God-given talents in photography and videography for the Lord's work. They were able to capture the beautiful city of San Pedro de Macoris, Ramon Santana, and the amazing ministries that we are blessed to be a part of. It was wonderful to have them both with us. Eli was able to preach our chapel service where he talked about purpose. He and Charlie both came to our classes to give their testimonies and answer questions. Please pray for both of these young men to be able to continue to use their gifts for God's glory.



God: Intelligent Designer



Studying different tissues and how they work together. Just like the church is made up of different people who all work together in love to further God's kingdom.

DNA: the Masterplan



God, the creator of all things has weaved us together in such a precise way. Our DNA is a testament to that. It is so complex and complete. Not only do the heavens declare God's glory... so do we!

Youth Group



Bibles



At school, kids are challenged to test God and search for answers themselves. We are happy to help and guide them but they are taught to take personal accountability in their walk with the Lord. We are grateful to all of the teams and organizations that donate Bibles. We are happy to get the Word of God into our student's hands. These kids were very excited to get their very own Bible.