

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

NEWS FROM MISSIONARY KATE PHILLIPS

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Advent wreath made at youth group in Palmar Arriba.

CULTURE CORNER

TRANSPORTATION

How does public transportation work in the Dominican Republic?

There are no passenger trains in the country. In order to get from one city to another, people take buses. Depending on the final destination, you may need to take more than one bus.

There are around one million people in Santiago. The main form of public transportation is a concho. These are small sedans that fit up to 7 people, including the driver. Each concho has one route and it only goes on one road. When you need to get on a different road, you get in a different concho. Each concho ride is 25 Dominican pesos (DOP) or about 50 cents.

If you need to go a little further out from the main part of the city, you can take a guagua (small bus or large van). People can pile into these vehicles too! Guaguas also cost 25 DOP.

There are also moto-conchos (motorcycles). It is not abnormal to see 3 adults on a moto.



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All youth gathering at Iglesia Luterana Cordero de Dios in Licey.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am excited to share with you a few happenings from the month of November in Santiago. I continue to keep learning. The more I learn, the more I realize how much more I need to learn. This can get exhausting! Part of on-field orientation is learning this fact and what to do when exhaustion strikes. I can say, I am learning this first hand. My trip to Jarabacoa at the end of last month marked a changing point in orientation. Now, my afternoons are shifted to shadowing pastors and deaconesses in the congregations, with mornings focused on Spanish classes. This month, I will be taking on more of a teaching role in some Sunday School classes.

Each morning, I begin Spanish class by reading a short devotion and discussing it with my teacher. This has helped me open my theological vocabulary and practice talking about Christ! Attending classes (Bible Study, catechism, and deaconess) have been a great way for me to practice and improve Spanish! Not only do I practice lots of listening during these classes, but I also am able to follow along with the printouts and read. Combining both these methods of learning helps me increase my vocabulary and understanding!

Many of my opportunities for work in the church have been focused around youth and kids. Earlier in November, the high school youth from the three congregations in Santiago gathered together for an afternoon and evening of Bible Study, fellowship, games, and dinner. I also went out to a community called Villa Dura where the congregation in Licey is planning on planting a new congregation. Over 20 kids and some adults gather together every week for Bible Study. Currently, we are teaching the 10 Commandments.



Advent Preparations

On November 30, I participated in youth group in Palmar Arriba. We had a few high school girls gather for Bible Study on the 4th Commandment. Afterward, we made Advent wreaths so that each girl can have one in their home. Deaconess Caitlin Ramirez taught about the significance of the wreath and how to use it. Each girl received daily Advent and Christmas devotions. We talked about Advent and preparations.

During this season, much of our time is spent preparing our homes for Christmas through decorating, cleaning for guests, and cooking many delicious foods and desserts. We also prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. We do not just celebrate His incarnation at Christmas, but we look forward to His second coming on the Last Day when all the faithful will be gathered together with Him in heaven.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Wisdom and guidance as I transition into a more active role in the mission.
- My family as we spend our first holidays apart from each other
- People traveling throughout Christmas that God gives them protection

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The support system God has created for me (my family, friends, and fellow missionaries).
- The network of financial and prayer supporters that you are part of.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- All the blessings He has bestowed over this past year

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

Above Left:
Two of our high school youth in Palmar Arriba helping each other tie bows for their Advent wreaths.

Right:
Reading God's Word together during Bible Study at youth group in Palmar Arriba.



← You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! Psalm 118:28-29 →

After meals at my grandparents' house we always said the prayer which can be found at the end of these verses (and many other places throughout Psalms). Early on in Spanish lessons, I decided to learn this prayer, and am going to share it with you all:

“Alabemos al Señor, porque él es bueno; porque su misericordia permanece para siempre!”
Salmos 118:29 (RVC).

I am thankful for all the gifts God has given me to be able to serve the people in the Dominican Republic. I thank Him for you, because you have made it possible for me to be here and continue to give me your support and encouragement through your prayers and financial gifts. Praise the Lord!



Joyfully Serving in Christ,
Kate Phillips

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