



## Growing Churches & Leaders That Impact the Dominican Republic

**“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”**

**Timothy 2:2**

# The Byrd's

May, 2018

Dear Praying Partners,

Please forgive the lateness of this update. We have had a lot going on the last few weeks and I just didn't get this written.. Last month I asked you to pray about a new class we have formed to prepare our church people to serve within the church. We call it “Instituto Equipar Los Santos” - which simply means Equipping the Saints Institute. We started with a 7 week course on “the Process of Spiritual Development” during our Wednesday Night Bible Study hour. It has been exciting to see great attendance and interest, including many visitors. We are over half way done now, and the interest has not waned. In fact, one man who normally didn't attend Sunday mornings due to playing Softball, has made the decision to put Christ first on Sunday mornings. In fact, I will be starting personal discipleship mentoring with he and his wife this week!

Our first ever Ladies Conference was a huge success! “I Choose Joy” was the topic for the day. Tami and a good friend, Joy Crockett spoke to our ladies, they had lunch together, and they all painted their own “I Choose Joy” wooden sign for their homes to remind them of all they learned. Jimmy and Joy Crockett have a unique ministry to missionaries around the world. Their ministry is to support, encourage, strengthen, and bless missionaries in any way possible. Jimmy spoke to our men on Thursday night as we had our first ever “Men's Corn Hole Competition.” His partner and brand new believer, Edgar, was crowned “El Brazo de Oro” - The Golden Arm, due to their dominance. Jimmy also preached for us Sunday morning. Then they loaded us up and took us to Punta Cana for a couple of days of R & R. Tami and the girls enjoyed the pool (the beach was covered with Seaweed & smelled awful), while the guys played golf! If you know me well, you know Golf is my other passion. What a great couple of days!!

This past Sunday, we celebrated as a church, because we voted to take on 2 church planting missionaries in the Dominican Republic for monthly support. I am so proud of the sacrifice, faith, and the desire our church has to take the Gospel outside of our own city. It was a very important day for our church. This is the next step in our journey to become a Church Planting Church.

Finally, we as a family are thrilled to announce that our son Cody is engaged to be married to Julia Harmon. Julia is a wonderful young lady, and will be a great partner for life! They plan to be married in early January, and they will begin deputation to raise support soon after. You may remember that Cody returned to the D.R. after graduating and has given his life to serve the Lord here with us. An added blessing, is that Julia is the sister of Taylor Harmon. Taylor and his wife M. E. are in the process of raising their support in order to be part of our team serving here in La Vega. Taylor and Mary hope to arrive sometime next Spring.

I would like to take a minute to say thank you to all of our support team. You folks pray for us consistently, sacrifice time and money, to visit and work with us. We constantly receive notes of encouragements, emails, and Facebook messages to keep us going. We are supported financially, many times at considerable sacrifice. Please know that our family, every one of us, greatly appreciate you. We thank the Lord for the privilege to be your “boots on the ground” in the Dominican Republic.

Living the Dream,

*Gary and Tami Byrd*

*Cody, Ben, Heidi, Darby, and Haley*

