

Weaver, Carol M

From: Nan Hammel <nhammel@casasporcristo.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 25, 2020 7:18 PM
To: Weaver, Carol M
Subject: Fall CPC Newsletter - Nan Hammel - Dominican Republic

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CASAS

POR CRISTO



Hello Everyone!

Thank you for all your prayers and faithful support, God is good! I wanted to get an update out on what has been going on these past several months here in the DR. ...And, I am excited for what God has

planned for the rest of 2020...more to come!

2011 Nissan Frontier

Around July, I was able to purchase the truck that many of you folks so generously donated toward. It cost \$13,500, which was right in the middle of the budget I set out between \$10,000-\$15,000. It has a double cab and can fit 5 people. The size is good for the smaller roads around here, and it has a big enough bed with a luggage rack on top for storing tools. And as a bonus, the previous owner added a new stereo and amplifier so you can crank the tunes up if you like. This really came in handy when my friends, Yenifer, Carolina, and Katherine, some of the college-aged neighbor gals from the mountain, started riding with me to come build with us this summer. They really enjoyed playing music on the ride there and back home. It was an experience making a truck purchase here in the Dominican as well. It took a couple of weeks to get the money transferred here... then we went to the bank, withdrew the cash, took it down to the auto dealer, and they wrote me a paper receipt. Of course, I had to pay for a contract to be drawn up in my name for the ownership of the vehicle and purchase some insurance, but paying for a vehicle in cash was kind of a new experience for me. This truck has already been such a useful tool. I have been able to give so many people rides, use it for building houses and other work-related jobs, and also for grocery shopping and personal use on the weekends. Thank you so much for giving to allow me to purchase this truck. Praise God! It has been a game-changer.

Hope Restored Building

By the middle of November, we will have been able to build 18 Hope Restored homes for families here in the Dominican Republic, as well as a special school project in the community of Falpo. Praise God! It has been a long summer and quite honestly we had to grind it out toward the end of July. I mean 2020 is just one of those years, right? Sometimes it was just being tired, and sometimes it was not being able to understand all of what people are saying in Spanish or how Dominican culture works. I'm a little new at this, 'wet behind the ears' for sure. Sometimes it was just learning to work with a new group of people and being misunderstood and also misunderstanding others, and sometimes we figured out it can be challenging to build together with fellow staff that are all trained to lead builds and all have different preferences and ways of building. And then, sometimes it's just a Covid-19 pandemic. We could all make a list like this for 2020. To be honest, it was hard. But through the hard times, God still shined through, blessed us with more opportunity for ministry, and showed his love to families through our meager, weak, tired messiness. God brought us through. There were two songs that really came to life for me this summer toward the end of July and early August and helped me process some when times were hard. I'm a huge Laura Story fan. A couple of her songs really stood out to me again for new reasons. One song entitled "I Can Just Be Me" (<https://youtu.be/nrXOOZyMemY>) really helped me because there are a lot of things to figure out when living in a different culture, learning a new language, and working with a new team of people. But what is most important is taking it all to God, being found in Him, and let Him take it and be God so you can just be you because it sure

doesn't work when you hold on to it yourself. Another song "Open Hands" (<https://youtu.be/NWWiyFIXdi0>) is kind of along the same lines, but as a whole, just cultivating the posture of worship in your life. Worship, not just a way to sing, but in the midst of life continually choosing to submit and let go of 'your' life because it is indeed God's life (Galatians 2:20). This is something I need to learn more and more because we can spend much of our lives focused on 'our story' or 'our life', but if we let Him, God has even greater things to be found when our life becomes His story and His life.



TOP LEFT & RIGHT: The 2011 Nissan Frontier I purchased for use here in the DR!

BOTTOM LEFT: Praying for Elpidio during the dedication with Pastor Diogenes.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Putting the roof on the new school in Falpo.

School Project in Falpo

In the second half of July, we were able to be a part of a project building a school in partnership with a ministry called Matthew 20:28 from Wisconsin as well as Pastor Michel and the Mas que Creyentes ministry we work with in Navarrete. We built a two-room schoolhouse in the community of Falpo. There were a lot of different folks that helped out with the construction on this project - from setting the forms and pouring the concrete, to the roof, and painting the finished interior walls. This school will provide an education for younger children (up to 5th grade) in the community so they don't have to cross a busy highway to get to school. It was a neat opportunity to work alongside the community in Falpo as well as our ministry partners, and it will be awesome to see how God uses and grows this ministry in the future.

First Trip Home

For the second half of August, I was able to make a trip home to Indiana and Tennessee to see family and friends. It was such a blessing to be home for a little while after six months here in the DR. It was so good to see so many friends and family, and I hope to be able to visit with some more folks when I come back again at the end of December. I know everything is a little crazy and a little different with the COVID pandemic whether you are in the US or the Dominican

Republic, but we'll just keep rolling with it!

Our First Volunteers

At the beginning of October, we had our first volunteer builders come from the United States since March! Hooray!! It was so great. Thanks so much to Jeff and Tracey Snyder for coming down! It was a special week building with our Dominican friends and neighbors, and it was one of those groups that just felt like family. We were able to build for Ramon and Rosmeiry and their two kids. Ramon has cancer and his wife Rosemeiry is mute. Praise God for His provision for this family. It was a very special and emotional dedication because of the hardships they are facing. Please continue to pray for Ramon and Rosemeiry and their children that they would come to know Jesus more and more.

With a much smaller group that week, we were able to take some time to do some other visits up in the mountains, go for a day at the beach, take a special tour, and drive around Navarrete some as well which was a lot of fun. If anyone is ever interested in making a trip like this and you don't have a group, just give us a call. We serve a God that makes things happen!



TOP LEFT: The two-room school project in Falpo built at the end of July.
 TOP RIGHT: The inside of of the school while we were finishing the interior walls.
 BOTTOM LEFT: My nephew Brooks and I
 BOTTOM RIGHT: Visiting with family and eating some Indiana tenderloins at the end of August.

Prayer Requests:

- For the COVID-19 pandemic
- Finding a home for me to rent in Navarrete
- For groups to begin to sign up for trips with Casas Por Cristo in 2021 and for the families that those groups will build houses for.
- I am flying to El Paso in early January to build with my fellow interns from the summer of 2019. Praise God for the opportunity

to build with these wonderful folks again, they are my family! Pray for us as we travel and for the family we build for.

- Pray for my coworker Ian and his wife Alyssa who were just recently married in October and are coming back soon to begin their life together here in the DR.
- Pray for my coworkers Josh and Allie, their son James, and their brand new baby girl, Lily Olivia as they travel back to their home here in the DR toward the end of the year.

Know I think about and pray for you folks often! I love you all!

LEFT: The house we built for Ramon & Rosemeiry and their family in Tunel.

RIGHT: Jeff & Tracey Snyder and Wilson eating lunch at the work site!



"Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written."

~ John 21:25 NLT

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Building & Serving in the Dominican Republic

My mailing address is:

nhammel@casasporcristo.org



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Casas Por Cristo · PO Box 971070 · El Paso, TX 79997-1070 · USA

