

## Day 3 – Thursday, June 21

It was a gorgeous day here in the Dominican! Hot but partly cloudy, providing some respite from the sunshine. We started with team devotionals at 7am - Kevin and his wife Nicole led the group with a reading of Judges 6 and Acts 10. We were reminded that even when we feel weak, God can do anything through our weaknesses; all we need to do is show up, God will do the rest.

We followed devotionals with breakfast and then headed out to El Almirante to start our second full day in the community. Woo!



Once we arrived, we again divided into groups for prayer walks and house painting. Prayer walks are important because they often bring us to houses and families who need extra help, but have not come forward on their own. Nicole and her group went to a house where one little girl was partially deaf and mute. Multiple kids in the community would help us communicate with her, as she didn't know much sign language – how amazing to see kids come together to help her! Now that we've met this family, we can help her get connected with local physicians for evaluation and possible cochlear implants or sign language education.

Rick had his annual home visit with his sponsor kids, Alexander and Kaiver. During the visit, the mother talked about struggles she has getting the right food for her sons. Here in the community, similar to in the United States, junk food is often easier to obtain and prepare – items like chips, soda, packaged cookies, etc. Rick asked the mom if she knew about proper nutrition, and she said she didn't. Rick then took her down the street to the community library where he hopped online to show her websites that provide videos and education for how to cost effectively provide healthy nutrition for her sons. God is on the move!

Following the morning activities, we ate lunch in El Almirante – a delicious home cooked meal of pasta and fruit. We also took the opportunity to pack lunches for the kids in Vacation Bible School (VBS).

We then headed back to the local library and church where we filled the afternoon with more painting, Teen Bible Study, and Vacation Bible School (VBS). During Teen Bible Study Fabia, the community pastor's wife, taught what the bible says about self-control and our bodies being a temple – a valuable lesson for teens in this community.

During VBS, we sang fun songs and taught the kids about Daniel and the Lion's Den. Their lesson focused on Daniel's immovable faith in God, and they colored paper lion heads we created. The kids left happily from VBS with their lion craft and a sack lunch.



The onsite time ended with a friendly dance-off between two team members, Roel and Sam. The kids gathered around and watched intently as the two took turns showing off their best moves (pictures included below 😊).

We got back to the hotel around 6pm where we enjoyed a little free [pool] time and then ate a delicious dinner of beef, rice, and fruit. Following dinner, we had evening devotionals, led by Heather and

Bonnie. Heather read a poem, "Time to Pray," which I've added below – the poem resonated with a lot of us! Bonnie read a verse from Philippians 4 - we were encouraged to not only pray daily, but be specific in our prayers. We closed in prayer and headed to our rooms for some rest – kid foot washing is tomorrow!

### Poem – Time to Pray

I got up early one morning  
And rushed right into the day  
I had so much to accomplish  
That I didn't have time to pray.  
Problems just tumbled about me,  
And heavier came each task.  
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered,  
He answered, "You didn't ask."  
I wanted to see joy and beauty,  
But the day toiled on, gray and bleak;  
I wondered why God didn't show me,  
He said, "But you didn't seek."  
I tried to come into God's presence;  
I used all my keys at the lock.  
God gently and lovingly chided,  
"My child, you didn't knock."  
I woke up early this morning,  
And paused before entering the day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
That I had to take time to pray.

