

THE SYKES MISSIONARY TIMES

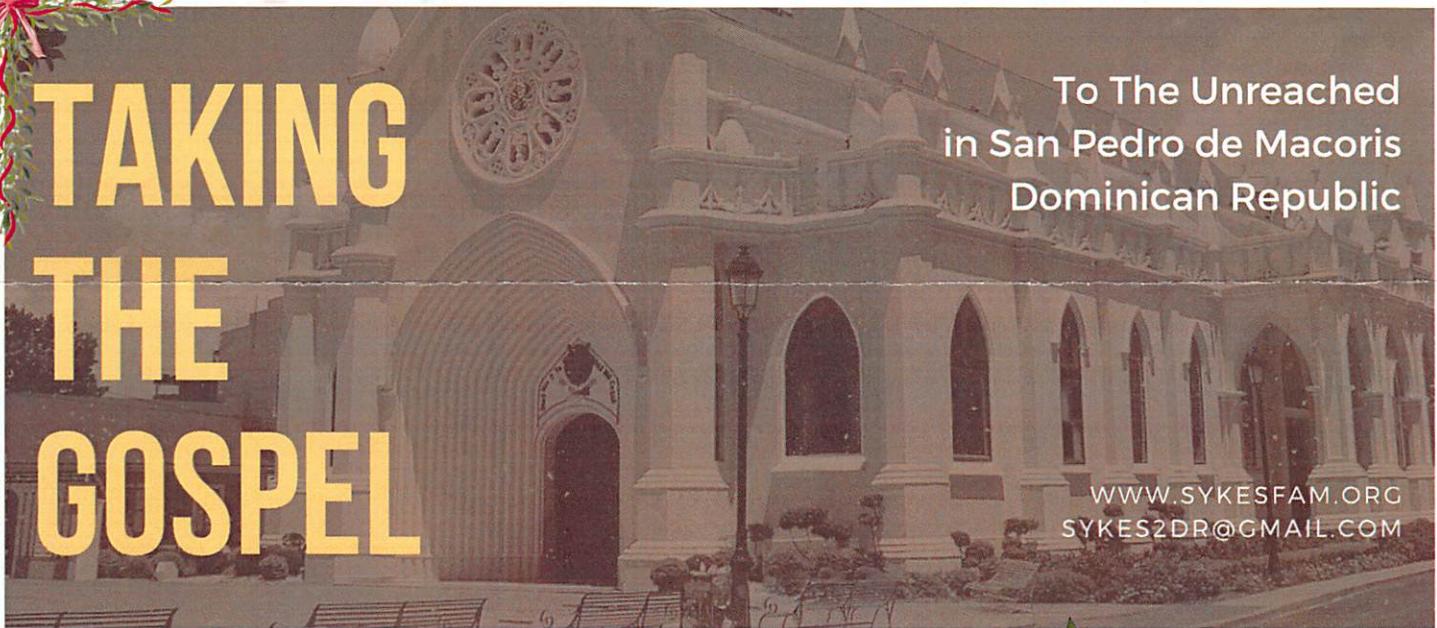
Missionaries to the Dominican Republic



TAKING THE GOSPEL

To The Unreached
in San Pedro de Macoris
Dominican Republic

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FOURTH QUARTER UPDATE

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE DR!



Christmas has a unique feel when you're breaking a sweat putting up the tree! Merry Christmas from the Sykes family. May God bless each of you as we celebrate the birth of the King of kings!

DISCIPLESHIP WIN!



Over the next few Sundays, Angel, Miguel, and my son Luke will be sharing messages at our church plant. I've had the privilege of discipling Angel and Miguel for the past year and a half, and Luke has been attending Word of Life here in the Dominican. I'm thrilled to see the growth in these young men and their eagerness to share what's on their hearts. In fact, Angel is about to arrive at our house so we can walk through his sermon prep together. He's feeling both nervous and excited, and I couldn't be prouder!

UNIVERSITY STUDENT MINISTRY



We have witnessed some amazing things in our university student small group. Our core members have been actively inviting others, and over the past month, we've welcomed two new young ladies, Maria and Natasha. Both are avid readers with a passion for diving deep into subjects like philosophy. While I'm not yet sure about their salvation, one thing is clear—the Holy Spirit is undeniably at work in their lives! Just last week, we sent them home with copies of *The Case for Christ*, and they are devouring this kind of material. Please pray that these young women will soon surrender their lives to Christ!



"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

1 THESSALONIANS 5:24

We count it a privilege to be able to serve the people of the Dominican Republic. We are amazed by God's transforming power and love being a part of expanding His Kingdom!



SAYING HARD GOODBYES 

While there is so much to be excited about in ministry, we face the bittersweet reality of soon saying goodbye to our oldest son, Sam. He will be leaving home to begin an internship in Pennsylvania. We are thrilled about the ministry opportunities, spiritual mentorship, and job training he will receive there, and we are confident that this is God's leading. At the same time, saying goodbye is never easy. Sam is in the United States, spending time with family, and will return to the Dominican for two weeks before moving to Pennsylvania. Please pray for all of us as we navigate this transition. As parents, it's a tough adjustment. The dynamic of our home will forever change, yet we couldn't be more proud of Sam and what God is doing in his life!

LUKE CONTINUES TO STUDY AT WORD OF LIFE 

Last year, Luke began attending Word of Life as a transition from his senior year to the next phase of life. After graduating at seventeen, he hoped to join the Marine Corps but couldn't because of his age. Now that he's turned eighteen, he plans to continue at Word of Life, taking it semester by semester. He's considering finishing the year there before moving forward with his plans for military service. In the meantime, seeing him grow spiritually and be challenged to think critically and take ownership of his faith has been a blessing. Listening to him share what he's learning has been an absolute joy!

CHAPEL CHURCH PLANT 

Every week, twenty young baseball players, all aspiring to sign professional contracts, join us for a Bible study with our new church plant. It's one of the highlights of my week! I am continually amazed by their attentiveness as we walk systematically through the Book of John. It is incredible to see the Holy Spirit at work in their lives!

A COMMON QUESTION WE RECEIVE 

Do we need more support? The short answer is "yes!" Living in the Dominican Republic comes with significant expenses, and ministry requires ongoing investment. If you feel led to partner with us, you'll find a link included in this email. Thank you for considering joining us in this work!

THANK YOU! 

A heartfelt thank you to all of you and to our Lord and Savior for an incredible year of ministry. People often ask if we miss home, especially during this season. The honest answer is, "Yes, we do." But we also wouldn't trade the front-row seat we have to witness God transforming lives. There's truly no comparison to seeing lives changed for eternity. Thank you for being a part of this journey through your prayers and financial support. May God bless you! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

San Pedro is nicknamed "the city of the Holy Spirit." There is a strong Pentecostal and charismatic influence, along with 7th Day Adventists and cults such as Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormonism. All of these religions, coupled with traditional Catholicism, have left people confused and still spiritually lost. Many have been part of multiple religions and churches with this in common — either trying to "earn" salvation or trying to "maintain" salvation by their works. It's in this darkness that there is a great opportunity to shine the light of the gospel - the message of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ

- Missionary Gary Hale

PRAYER REQUESTS...

- Please pray that we can raise additional support as soon as possible
- Pray for a new believers we are discipling...it is wonderful to see them growing!
- Pray for the new chapel ministry as it continues to grow!
- Pray for mom as she deals with the loss of Dad. The Christmas season has been a challenge for her