

Ardell & Gordon Graner  
October, 2016



Santo Domingo is a city of over four million people. More than one third of the people live on less than \$1.25 US/day while 20 percent live in extreme poverty. We know many families who don't have enough money to make it through the month. There are many street people and 70 percent of the people are included in the informal sector of society. These folks are very creative in how they try and earn a living; from selling anything and everything, including bubble-makers to people in cars stopped at traffic lights, to preparing all kinds of food and selling it on the sidewalks and along road ways.

I was racing to get to the electric company on the 23rd, knowing they cut your service after this date even if you only receive electricity for two hours every day, which many people do.



To get to the electric company quicker, I got in a public transportation vehicle. These vehicles are completely banged-up, like cars in demolition derbies. I could see that the driver was very poor. He was driving very slowly and I was the only passenger in the vehicle, as it was right over the lunch hour. Other cars on the road were honking at him and trying to get around him on this busy street. This didn't seem to bother him at all.

Finally, after a few blocks, he turned around and said something to me I didn't immediately catch, though I did hear the word 'hungry'. He continued to speak as he pulled up alongside a street vender who was selling out of a make-shift grocery cart.



The vendor seemed to recognize the driver and smiled at him, greeting him warmly. The driver then pulled the car ahead a bit, as traffic around him continued to blast their horns. I thought he was going to stop and eat lunch as he pulled out a plastic container of food from under his seat. The vender brought over a small plastic bag and the driver put the rest of his rice and beans in it.

The driver told me his wife sends him plenty of food each day and he likes to share it with this vender who he knows never has enough to eat. The driver then told me that we need to watch for people who don't have enough food and share with them.

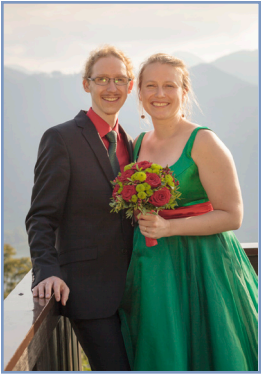
Jesus reminds us of sharing very clearly in Luke 16: 19-31, as he tells about the rich man dressed in fine linens who passes daily by sick and hungry Lazarus who sits by his gate. Both men die and Jesus relates to us the desperate conversation the rich man has with Father Abraham.

May God help us to see Lazarus in our world and respond with compassion.



**Ardell's Advance Special #: 10836Z**  
**Gordon's Advance Special #: 10835Z**  
**Lost & Found, Children of the Dominican Republic**  
**Advance Special #: 3021935**  
**Emails: Ardell's; agraner@umcmmission.org**  
**Gordon's; ggraner@umcmmission.org**  
**website: www.granerfamily.org**

## Wedding Celebration



**O**ur oldest daughter Jenny and our new son -in-law, Robert were married in Munich, Germany on

September 10. It was a very intimate and emotional event held on the side of a mountain with the Alps in the distance. It was a great blessing to have our family together to share the joy of this union.

## UMVIM team



**I**n May we received a second medical team from Pierre, South Dakota. We decided to work in the greater Santo Domingo areas of Los Alcarrizos and Buenos Aires. We discovered that these urban communities are as much in need of medical care as are the rural areas. It was a time to listen to the many young mothers and their children and offer a 'cold cup of water' in service to those who need healing.



**W**e worked with another Solar Oven Partners UMC team in July giving seminars near the north coast of the island in the towns of Sosua, Sabaneta de Yasicca, and Gaspar Hernandez. There was an enthusiastic response in all three places and we were able to distribute 89 solar ovens.

**I**n August, we co-hosted our first Volunteer in Mission team from First UMC of Gastonia, North Carolina. Together with a Dominican team of masons and volunteers we put up the walls of a new water purification plant in the village of Jaquimeyes. This impoverished village will soon have access to pure drinking water from this church-based water house.

**O**ur sincerest gratitude to each VIM team for sharing your lives with the people of the Dominican Republic. Whenever we reach out person-to-person like this we are very near to the Kingdom of God and the presence of God seems especially close. Thank you very much.

## Prayer Requests

**P**ray for those who have lost family members, homes, livelihoods especially in Haiti as a result of Hurricane Matthew.

**P**ray for Ardell, Rev. Betania, José-Rafael, and Rev. Jeremias as they continue to write, edit, print Bible lessons for children, youth, and adults. And also for their outreach to local churches to teach the teachers who in turn carry the Good News to their groups in Sunday School and Extension Bible School (for children outside the church).



**P**ray for Solar Oven Partners UMC which is in the process of building a covenant relationship with the Dominican Evangelical Church and looking for a Dominican pastor to serve as National Director of the solar oven ministry.

**P**ray for the water purification ministry that through the distribution of pure drinking water we may find ways to share the Gospel with our neighbors.