

January 2022

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19

Greetings once again from the Dominican Republic! I enjoyed my time back in the States with family and friends, and I’m excited to return for another semester. I know 2022 will be full of new challenges and adventures, and I can’t wait to see what God has planned for this new year.

(photo- traveling back to the DR guitar in hand!)



Christmas Break

December was a full and filling month for me. I made it home the first week in December and spent a couple days with my family. Then, I flew down to Texas for several days to spend time with friends from Rio Grande and celebrate a wedding. I also got to bring some friends back to Wisconsin with me during their Christmas break from school. We enjoyed introducing them to the cold and snow, going sledding, exploring some local attractions, cooking a variety of typical foods from Colombia, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic, and just spending time together, with lots of laughter. I got plenty of translation practice, but it was also fun for me just watching my friends and family interact, despite the language barrier. They headed back to school the first week of January, and I spent the next few days with family before returning to the DR.



(photos- posing with Igor at the cheese store; opening Christmas presents; braving the cold for a selfie)



(photos- delicious food; dinner with everyone at Texas Roadhouse; Christmas Eve service at church)

This Semester

I'm continuing to teach English classes with kids from the church in Bani, although this semester we are hosting the classes here in the house (well, technically in the garage). So far the location change has worked really well, and it allows us the opportunity to reach some of the kids in our neighborhood as well. We've also started classes with a new church in a neighborhood called Villa Majega. The kids there are eager to learn, and I'm confident they will absorb the material quickly!



(photo- class in Villa Majega)



(photo- class in Bani)

Translation

I'm also resuming with translation for the discipleship classes this semester on Thursday and Friday nights. Translating continues bringing me so much joy, and it's been fun interacting with everyone in these two latest churches.

(photo- students practicing their personal story)



Kids Club

Saturdays have quickly filled up with several different kids programs. In the morning, we have a Bible club with kids in Sombrero (in the same church where I was teaching English last semester.) I've loved getting to see some of my former students again! In the afternoon I help with the kids program at the local church in Bani, and after that I stay for youth group with other teenagers from the church.



(photo- kids club in Sombrero; Club OANSA (kids program) in Bani; always making new friends :D)

Gratitude

- I'm thankful for a restful Christmas break, a safe trip back to the DR, and an excellent start to this new semester!
- I'm so thankful that my parents are able to come visit me in February!
- A huge thank you for the kids from a church in Texas who worked for months collecting items to make gift bags for the kids in the church in Sombrero. The items arrived about a week before I returned to the DR, so when I got back, I was able to help distribute those gifts.
- The kids were thrilled to receive them!



(photo- gift bags packed and ready to go!)

Prayers

- Please pray for safe travels for my parents when they visit.
- Please pray for restful nights of sleep for me so that I have energy for all of the different projects we have going.
- Please pray for all the kids we're ministering to, in both the English classes and the Bible clubs.

Information

If you have questions or would like to hear more about my adventures in the Dominican Republic, please email me at emily.stader@516NOW.org or message me through Facebook.

You can also visit my webpage at <https://516now.org/emily-stader/> to receive updates or to learn more about the organization of 516NOW.

If you would like to join me on this adventure as a financial supporter, there is a link to donate in the webpage above, or you can go directly to <https://516now.org/donations/support-emily-stader-ministry/>

Thank you and God Bless!

Emily