

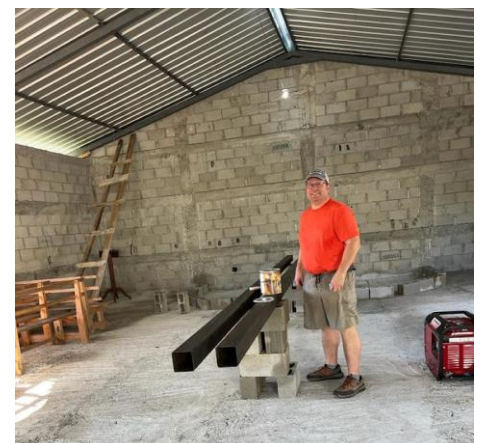
November/December 2022

"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, For His faithfulness is everlasting." Psalm 136:1

During this holiday season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, I have spent a lot of time reflecting on God's faithfulness. These past two months have been especially sweet as I have seen God working in many areas of my life. I began my time at Highlands with some doubts about my church placement and how it would affect my ability to do ministry with Spanish-speakers. However, especially in these last two months, God has provided so many opportunities for me to use my Spanish to further His Kingdom, while also getting to serve at a church campus that brings me so much life, joy and spiritual growth. He is truly so good, and I am so thankful!

Update from the Dominican Republic

My dad took a small mission team down to the D.R. in the middle of November. They helped with the ongoing construction of the church in Sombrero. This church, located on the same piece of property where our team was working on Pastor Fabian's house in May, will be used both by his congregation in Sombrero and by other Haitian churches in the area as a central location to host services, conferences, and classes. They are currently considering purchasing a neighboring property to build several rental houses that would help generate an additional source of income for Pastor Fabian and the church. (Mr. Art surveying the worksite; sparks fly as Scott and Tom work on welding; my dad painting rafters)



Although the church is not quite complete, they have already started using it for evangelistic events and kids' programs. Jaime has also continued the discipleship classes in multiple churches.



Highlands Highlight

I completed my first semester at Highlands in December. While this semester has definitely presented its challenges, I am so thankful for everything I've learned, for the conversations I've had, for the wonderful friends I've made, and for all the new experiences and opportunities I've been part of, and I'm excited what next semester will bring! (hosting a "Friendsgiving" dinner at our apartment →)



(at a pre-release movie screening for Jesus Revolution; my fellow HC students at the Southwest campus; meeting Dr. John Maxwell at the Impact Leadership Conference in December)

Evangelism Opportunities

Over the last couple of months, I've had the opportunity to get involved with a group from Highlands that does ministry with international students who are studying at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. It has been so much fun to interact with so many people from different cultures and countries and it makes my missionary heart happy. 😊

(Thanksgiving dinner with the international students →)



(Serving Giving Hope with these lovely ladies!)

Giving Hope

Our Saturday serve projects for November and December were mostly prep days for Giving Hope, which is a Christmas outreach event that Highlands does every year. Basically, people donate toys and bibles to give to families in the area who are struggling financially and do not have the resources to buy Christmas presents. We set up all the donated toys at the church and invited the parents on December 10 to personally select gifts for their children and get them wrapped. What I loved about Giving Hope was that the parents got to be the heroes in the eyes of their kids. Instead of the church taking credit, they empower the parents by making it possible for them to provide gifts for their kids. During the event itself, I had the opportunity to translate for several Hispanic families and pray with them in Spanish, which was a very special experience.

Gratitude

- I'm thankful for the opportunity to have been so involved in Giving Hope over the last few months! It was truly a blessing to serve in an area that God has made me so passionate about and to see how He used my love for Spanish and Spanish-speakers to touch families' lives, even if only for a short time.
- I'm thankful for Christmas break and the time I've been able to spend with my family and friends!
- I'm thankful for this semester with all its lessons and blessings, for God's faithfulness in 2022, and for all that He will continue to do in 2023!

Prayers

- Please pray for the church construction in Sombrero and that God will continue to provide the necessary funds to complete the project.
- Please pray for the ministry that we will continue to do with international students this semester.
- Please pray for a Spanish-speaking small group that I want to start this semester with some of the families I met during Giving Hope.

Information

If you have questions or would like to hear more about my adventures in the DR, or my current adventure in Alabama, 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