

Luis & Julie Añil

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**My Health:** My breast cancer surgery went well. It was a lumpectomy, performed in the Dominican Republic. I also tolerated well my radiation treatments, as well as the hormone blocker pill I need to take daily for the next five years. So far I have had no adverse side effects other than fatigue, although many do have. I thank the Lord that my cancer was discovered early. Luis and I are now in Houston where I am undergoing my chemotherapy treatments at MD Anderson. We are staying with long-time friends whom I knew when we were single and I was living in Beirut. Dr. Raad, our host, was studying medicine at the American University of Beirut and is now director of the Infectious Disease Department at MD Anderson. We are deeply grateful for his opening the way for me to be treated at MD Anderson and for their generous hospitality.

I now have had two chemo treatments. With the first one I had a bad reaction and had to go to the emergency room the second night. I had fever, chills, slow breathing, among other things. By the time I got to the hospital the fever had broken. They took lots of tests and everything came out normal and they sent us home. My second chemo went better, and so far, I have not had any adverse reactions, other than fatigue. We continue to ask you for prayers for my full recovery, as Luis and I are eager to return to the Dominican Republic and continue with our work there, although it seems to be going very well without us.

**The Ministry:** We have trained and discipled three men who are taking over all parts of the work we have been doing with them. Luis has been working with them diligently. They seem to be doing an excellent job and have been excited to take over the responsibilities. They are probably glad to have us out of their hair for several months so they won't feel we are always looking over their shoulder to monitor the way they want to develop the ministry. After all, they are working in the context of their own culture and language.

**Our Recent Conference:** Just before we left we were involved in a dual national conference with the Haitian Community. In Santiago, D.R. there is a very large Haitian community with scores of churches that were started by just one committed Haitian Christian man about 25 years ago. Luis and I were not aware of such a large community. Relations between the Dominicans and the Haitians are not very amicable. A pastor friend of ours put the week long conference together so deeper understanding and needs of each country could be improved. He invited Luis and me to be a part of the conference and it was an exciting time and much more than we were expecting. The Haitians that we met are serious Christians, and especially committed to prayer. Many came from Haiti just to attend the conference. The theme of the conference was to find ways to improve connections between the Dominicans and the Haitians, especially with those who are living in the D.R. permanently. Soccer is their favorite sport, just like baseball is in the D.R. When we return, they have asked Luis to visit frequently to help the youth in sports and combine his love of sports with the same teaching we are doing in our town; imparting the need of good character in sports, Biblical values, along with sharing the Word of God with the neighborhood kids. It could turn into a discipleship program. Their city is not too far from ours, about an hour and a half. Below are a few pictures of our time together.

How grateful we are for your prayers for me as I go through this cancer challenge. It really has taken up almost all my time each day. I feel very behind in my personal communication with you, but eventually I will catch up. We could not go through this without your support in so many ways. With Utmost Appreciation, *Luis & Julie*

