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Luis and I want to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, 2018.

We have now been in the Dominican Republic five years. We plan to stay as long as we are able, and we hope that it will be a long time. The Lord has given us a very fruitful ministry, much more than we would have imagined when we decided to move here. Our main focus is with baseball teams, but God has also opened up many other areas of ministry for us in our community and in our large province of Duarte. We have opportunities to minister with the families of the baseball players, with high officials in the various departments of the police, department of investigations, prisons, and with friends made on other social levels. Luis has earned a degree here in International Human Rights, and he is often called to investigate problems related to incorrect treatment of prisoners, along with other issues.



Living in a poor and developing country has not been easy. The services taken for granted in the U.S. are not available here, such as clean water, electricity that is available almost all the time in the U.S., whereas here it is cut off frequently without notice, low safety standards, no central air conditioning, etc. The heat and humidity wreaks havoc on our electronics. But we have learned to resolve problems, and to expect the unexpected. God has always been faithful, and often surprises us with His care.

But I (and we) love living and working here. The people have been a joy to get to know, and as the years pass, we have made deep and meaningful relationships. Our friends, and also strangers, have always been available to help us with situations that need to be settled.

As we face a New Year, we want to present our financial needs for the coming year. It has become harder for us to raise funds, both for our living and ministry necessities, while living in another country. We depend on our newsletters to communicate our needs.

When we arrived here we worked with Luis' former trainer, with only 16 kids. Now we minister with six trainers and coaches, all friends and former coaches that Luis knew growing up in his hometown. We work with about 600 youth that represent the trainer's leagues.

Luis can make jerseys and caps for each youth for \$10.00 each= \$6,000.

We also want to begin a school for teenagers in a poor neighborhood to teach them sewing or tailoring, combined with evangelism and discipleship. Otherwise, many just hang out in the afternoons, after school, and often get into trouble. Luis' skill is tailoring, along with baseball. We can combine evangelism and Biblical discipleship, with teaching youth a skill for life, as well as an anchor in how to grow in Christ. This will require six used industrial sewing machines at \$300 each. We will also need \$200 monthly for the rent of a space. This need will equal \$1800 for the machines, and \$3600 for the yearly monthly rent. In addition, we will need to buy accessories for the sewing classes.

We are including a financial donation envelope. Would you consider investing in a part of our needs for the coming year? We could not be here without you, and we do not take your generous giving, prayers, and expressions of love for granted. Many heartfelt thanks! Also, prayers for me are appreciated for a second surgery I will need in NYC in mid December.

*Love, Luis and Julie*