

# Expanding the

*The newsletter of Wes and Maria Smith*

## **Prayer Needs and Praises**

- **Need 6 summer interns for 6 weeks of ministry. More information is available at [drvision.org](http://drvision.org) or call me personally.**
- **SEMCA needs more Spanish-speaking professors.**
- **Our Christian school, Las Palmas has needs in the following areas: elementary (Grades 2, 3, 4, 6), HS Math/science, and English.**
- **New ministry work in a local community where we would like**

# DR VISION



January 2017

## **New Trimester Sees Growth**

### **Thank you**

Before I tell you of all that God is doing, I want to thank all of our friends for their thoughts, prayers, cards, and gifts during the Christmas season. We were so blessed and, frankly, overcome by the many who did special things for us or wrote cards and emails. Maria and I had a wonderful Christmas, and we are excited about the possibilities of 2017.

### **Growth**

In our last newsletter I included a photo of the forty publicity posters that were mounted around the city. As a result of our publicity, we have been receiving phone calls regularly and have added about 6 - 7 new students to our program. I am asking the Lord for another 5-6 students for the next trimester which begins in May.

### **Blessed by a visiting professor from the States**

Every trimester begins with a one-week, modular class. Classes are held nightly from 6 - 9:30pm and from 8:30am - 3:00pm on Saturday. This provides a good opportunity for visiting, Spanish-speaking professors to come and teach a class. In January we were so blessed to have Roberto Torres from First Baptist in Forrest Park, Georgia to come and teach Introduction to Missions. We were blessed in so many ways by his presence here.



**Roberto teaching "Missiology" to our students in SEMCA and Roberto wanting to take a ride on my scooter. (But Ana only let him sit on it in the carport.)**

First, his class became an instant favorite of our students. Roberto is in the process of completing his D.Min. in missions and pastors a Hispanic work in Forrest Park. His knowledge, experience, and humor made the class electrifying. At the end of the class, students began requesting that Roberto return to teach more classes. Second, Roberto brought his wife Ana with him. They stayed with us for the week, and we found ourselves enjoying

their presence so much that we felt a loss when they left the following week.

Finally, Roberto has agreed to return annually to teach one to possibly 2 classes. We are so grateful to our new friends and look forward to serving with them here in the months to come

## **My Mom Comes for a Visit**

Last summer my mom expressed that she would like to come here to the DR, visit with us, and see our ministry. Many of you remember that my dad died a little over a year ago, and while Dad never had the chance to come and see us due to his declining health, my mom felt that she was now ready to do some traveling.



Mom arrived in mid-January and stayed for two weeks, leaving the day before her 83rd birthday. While here we took her to visit the various ministries that are part of the DR Vision, including the school, seminary, Visionland (our 46 acres being developed), and churches. She attended our main church and we also visited our mission church in Ramon Santana. She met our American and Dominican friends and was able to get an overview of the work and ministry here.

Of course, we also took her to the beach (my mom LOVES the beach), the Colonial Zone in the capital, local caves, the Pirates Baseball Academy, and much more. She enjoyed a variety of Dominican foods including plantains, yucca, Johnny-cakes, empanadas, tostones, and a very interesting experience with grilled fish. Truthfully, she wore me out! We were on the move almost everyday doing something or going somewhere.

On her last night here we celebrated her birthday. What a blessing to have her here!