

SMITH



Brian & Lynette Smith

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

LANGUAGES

Haitian Creole
Spanish

MINISTRY PRIORITIES

Economic
Development,
Evangelism,
Health and
Wellness

CHILDREN

Ricky
Calen

BIRTHDAYS

Brian 4/19
Lynette 5/28
Ricky 12/28
Calen 9/11



LOCATION

Dominican Republic

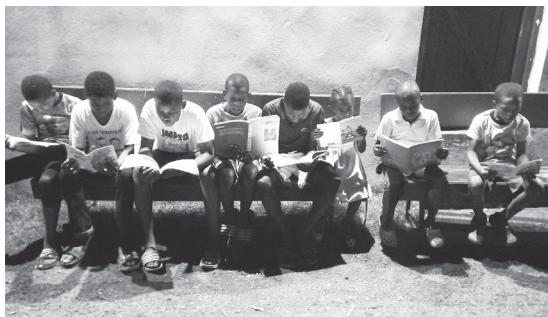


ABOUT

BRIAN and LYNETTE serve among Haitians and Dominicans in partnership with Mission Maranatha Inc. to build sustainable ministries on the island of Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti). Living in the Dominican Republic and drawing from their experiences in Haiti, they are working to build strong

relationships with church and community leaders as they encourage existing ministries and seek creative ways to accomplish God's vision alongside communities. Brian is using his skills in business management to teach budgeting and step-by-step goal achievement. Lynette utilizes her skills as a doula to accompany and listen to the stories of the community members. Both incorporate the basis of Asset Based Community Development to empower people to be holistically well (mind, body, spirit) and reaching out to others in ways that speak love, preserve dignity, and create unity as the body of Christ.

EMAIL: blsmith@internationalministries.org



Elementary and middle school-aged students study under the newly installed bright lights in the yard of the church.

“ MINISTRY STORY

A batey church desired to invest in their younger generations by providing an alternative to studying by the dim flame of an oil lamp, yet they were challenged by the path of achievement. Brian was able to walk alongside them to develop a budget and the implementation.

After a few months, the community had saved the monies to purchase their portion of the materials. Brian, a few La Romana church volunteers, and the materials were greeted by a group from the batey eager to assist. “This is the day my family has dreamed of,” one student told Brian.

The solar panels and lights were mounted and the wiring run. Just as the last wires touched, the entire room lit up with radiant light! Joyful shouts of praise and gratitude to God filled the room. “Now we will live in luxury,” said another boy.

A few women from the church asked Brian to install light in the bathroom. Not having the materials on hand, two community members returned with the needed items from their homes. Making the bathroom

usable after dark was necessary to host Bible study in the evenings. Now with lights the men could attend, since they wouldn't be working after dusk.

This singular vision of providing illumination for students to study, gave light to new possibilities that couldn't be seen before! Now with the light piercing the darkness, not only can the students study, activities can happen with the men present.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for our ability to listen deeply to stories that cultivate understanding, dignity, and strong relationships.

Pray that we have a respect for and a learning of the past, a motivation and action for the present, and a vision for the future.

Pray for the light to shine in the darkest of places and for the Good News to be shared.

SCRIPTURE

“...*light is better than darkness.*”

Ecclesiastes 2:13 (NIV)