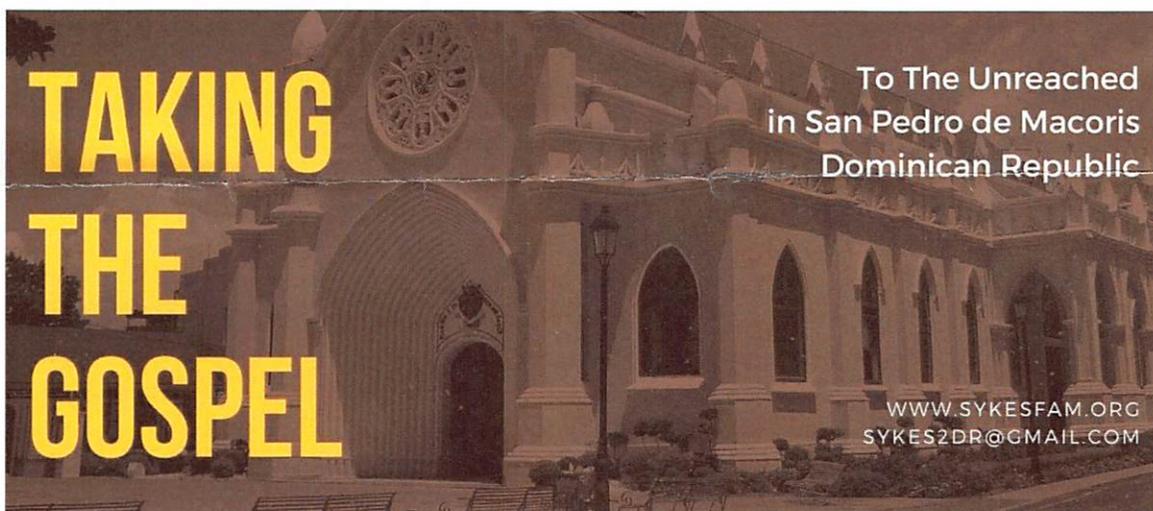


February 19, 2026 - January 2026 Prayer Letter

THE SYKES MISSIONARY TIMES

Missionaries to the Dominican Republic



END OF YEAR RECAP

It is hard to believe we are already halfway through February. This letter covers the month of January, but the end of last year was full.

Luke graduated from the Marine Corps, which was a proud moment for our family. We returned to the Dominican for a few weeks, then traveled again in December to spend Christmas with our older boys. Both moved out in 2025 and began building their own lives.

Sam is working and faithfully serving at our sending church in Pennsylvania. Luke is currently in the schoolhouse phase of his training in Pensacola, Florida. Lord willing, he will be stationed in North Carolina. One of our supporting churches is close to base, so he is excited to plug in and serve there. That brings peace to a father's heart.

DISCIPLESHIP

My personal discipleship with Angel, Miguel, and Nicolas continues. I thank God for their growth. As it should be, discipleship sharpens me as much as it strengthens them. I am encouraged as I continue my own process of sanctification.

I often describe discipleship in phases.

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The first phase centers on nourishment. A new believer learns to know God through Scripture and prayer.

The second phase turns outward. As growth takes root, the desire to share Christ grows with it. Faithfulness in witness becomes part of daily life.

The third phase begins when a disciple starts discipling someone else. That is where real multiplication happens.

All three of these young men have walked through the first two phases. We now pray for open doors in the third. Angel and Miguel face school constraints, so they have not yet settled into a regular discipleship rhythm. Still, they are asking God to provide the right person. Nicolas is already discipling a young man in his church. We meet every Thursday at 4 p.m. at my house to talk about his personal growth and how his discipleship is progressing.

There is something powerful about watching disciples make disciples.

SEMCA

We began our first seminary class of the year. The course is Leadership 1. The focus is spiritual preparation before public leadership.

We address questions such as:

- How do you serve well?
- How do you elevate others?
- How do you train someone to replace you?
- How do you handle criticism and learn from it?

Many students in this class already lead in some capacity. That makes the conversations direct and practical. It challenges them. It challenges me as well.

At the end of this letter, I will include a link to the textbook. I write in English first, then translate into Spanish so both versions are available. Writing has become another avenue for discipleship. Nothing replaces sitting across from someone face to face. Still, placing a resource in someone's hands allows the conversation to continue long after the meeting ends.