



The Bemenderfer Family

JARABACOA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | FALL 2021

WELCOME TO OUR NEW NEWSLETTER FROM OUR NEW ORGANIZATION, CROSSWINDS!

Crosswinds, a Christian counseling ministry based in Fort Wayne, Indiana, operates Caribbean Mountain Academy (CMA), our new place of ministry in the Dominican Republic. They are part of a larger family of counseling ministries that have been serving families and individuals in crisis for more than fifty years. Check out caribbeanmountainacademy.com to learn more.

When we visited CMA in September, we were surprised by how similar their practices were to our own parenting experience, which guided our training of James in our home before we left China. Because we were taking personal responsibility for his behavior, we were compelled to monitor that behavior at all times. He lived with us, ate with us, did homework with us, went to class with us, left class with us. We opened our lives to him, in order to disciple him and share Christ. By the grace of God, our “experiment” was successful. He received Christ and, as we’ve mentioned before, he has continued growing under Lily’s care. We had no idea how significant that experience would be in our lives! We were just trying to help a teen in need.

CMA works in much the same way, operating very much like an extended family taking in troubled teens. Loving, caring, instructing, challenging and guiding them through the process of change and growth. Some students have come to Christ, some have been baptized, many rededicated themselves to the Lord. All have been exposed to the love of Christ and the call to godly living.

When I first became a missionary, though young and single, I understood that I would be accountable to the requirements of an elder or deacon. One of those requirements has always stood out to me: I would not be qualified as a leader or teacher in the church if I did not manage my own family well, if they did not believe and walk with the Lord (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9). That has been a core conviction from the time Rachel and I married.

Serving in China, we were heartbroken over the devastation wrought by the one-child policy and exacerbated by the pursuit of wealth. As often as possible, we offered marriage and parenting classes for those in and around our ministry. We left curriculum behind in China, in hope that Joe and Hannah, our Chinese coworkers, might be able to develop a ministry with it.



Our future neighborhood



A waterfall with coworkers



An amazing view

SCAN WITH SMARTPHONE CAMERA TO DONATE



YOUR SUPPORT MEANS SO MUCH TO US!

Scan the QR Code to donate online. You can also donate via check. Checks should be mailed to Crosswinds, 4150 Illinois Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46804 - with “Bemenderfer” in the memo line. Thank you!

We came to see how raising “little emperors and empresses” hindered the Gospel, by rearing a generation “wise in their own eyes” (Proverbs 3:7), that thought they were the center of the universe. Apart from an amazing work of grace, there’s no way someone like that could step down from that pedestal to make room for the True God, to accept His Word as true and right!

Sadly, we could see the same thing in every country we visited, even in America. Some have called it child-centered parenting. It develops an adult who remains wise in their own eyes and cannot accept that God knows better. We believe this is the main cause of today’s mass exodus of youth from Christ and His Church.

We still want to share Christ. Even more, we want to disciple to a degree we’ve never been able to do before. We want to be part of helping families and teens reconnect with Christ and with one another, if perhaps to raise up a new generation of Believers who will recapture what it means to follow Christ and accomplish the Great Commission. Because we believe families are the foundation of the Church, and without healthy, godly families, the mission of the Church will not be accomplished. It must not continue to be done as it is done today, broken believers and churches reproducing broken believers and churches. That’s not the movement Jesus started; it’s not the movement the Apostles continued. Theirs was a movement of real transforming power.

Serving in China limited what we’re able to do, and we were once OK with being mere “plodders for Christ” (William Carey). But our hearts have been burning to do more, not more in number but deeper in depth. Serving at CMA will open our lives more completely than ever to a larger community and will give us freedom to serve in ways blocked to us in the past.

Though our role at first will be to shepherd the current American staff and their families, we anticipate in due time working more directly with the students. We have lots of ideas how we might serve the campus community, so we’re eager to get there and start ministering! God willing, our little efforts will spill far beyond this little valley tucked away in the central highlands of the Dominican Republic.

Will you continue helping us extend our reach and yours?

If you’ve been supporting us through TEL, there are a couple steps you’ll need to take to transfer your giving to Crosswinds. If you’ve been giving by PayPal, you’ll need to log into your account to stop a recurring donation. If you’ve supported us by ACH transfers from your bank account, you’ll need to email Lillie or Carrie at finance@telintl.org and ask them to cancel the transfer. Or you can write them at TEL, PO Drawer E, Denton, TX 76202.

To support us through Crosswinds, you also have the option

of giving by check, ACH transfer, or online. To give by check, simply mail it made out to Crosswinds, Inc. to the address at the bottom of the first page. Be sure to include a note designating the gift for us. Or you can give a one-time gift or set up recurring gifts online at crosswinds.org/support-bemenderfer/ (or scan the QR code on the first page).

If you’d like to set up an ACH transfer, email us or contact Crosswinds directly (donations@crosswinds.org) and we’ll get you the ACH form.

Besides monthly support needs (which are pretty much the same as before), we also have some one-time needs, like purchasing a vehicle and new house set-up. We’ve budgeted \$21,000 for these needs, and God graciously provided the first \$15,000 before we even knew the costs! We appreciate your help with these needs, too!

As always, we’re grateful for your commitment to us and to the Gospel through us!

Mark, for the family



WHAT IS CARIBBEAN MOUNTAIN ACADEMY?

Caribbean Mountain Academy (CMA) is Crosswinds’ therapeutic boarding school for teens, located in the Dominican Republic. CMA gives struggling teens the opportunity to redirect their lives and gain the tools to be successful at home, school and in their community.

Visit caribbeanmountainacademy.com to learn more about CMA.



@caribbeanmountainacademy

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Learn more about what Crosswinds’ Caribbean Mountain Academy (CMA) is doing to help struggling teens get a fresh start!

Like & Follow CMA on Facebook and Instagram to keep up with our work here.

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