

Subject: RE: Dominican Plans- Josiah's House - Rendering

Mike, my friend, Wayne Morrison, passed along your email asking about Josiah's House and its beginning. I am a second-generation homebuilder in Nashville, and Wayne has been a significant part of our family business for many years. He traveled with me to the DR in November, and upon our return, drew all the plans for the buildings you and your group worked on in San Pedro.

First of all, let me say how grateful we all are to have had your help. You and your group are true servants, and we will always remember your generosity and continue to ask for your prayers as we complete the buildings.

For several years, I have been involved in the SCORE baseball/evangelism ministry in November. In the afternoons we often visit several different orphanages and play with the children. In the past couple of years God has placed the boys on my heart as I realized at one of the orphanages they had been separated from the other children and were living in a situation that needs much attention. Others expressed concern for them as we continued to visit with them, and I guess God just started working on my heart, and those of others, to do something about this.

We believe with all of our hearts that God commands us to take care of the orphans. We believe that God has also led us to this property and presented us with so many divinely ordained opportunities that it is abundantly clear He wants this to happen!

The name -- Josiah's House -- is also God-ordained. Josiah Berger is the 19 year old son of our pastor and his wife, Steve & Sarah Berger. He was fatally injured in a one-car accident in August, and he went to Heaven on his 19th birthday, August 14, 2009. He was an organ donor -- his own idea, unknown to his parents until the hospital inquired -- and is much loved by many, many people. His personality, looks, zest for life, love of others -- this could go on & on -- are legendary. He enjoyed playing with younger kids, especially on mission trips to Spanish-speaking countries.

The name just came to my wife and me, separately but at the same time. We had already been working on the houseplans prior to Josiah's accident and discussing the details with the SCORE reps, but there was no name. We had never even talked about a name, as a matter of fact. When Josiah went to Heaven, God totally dropped that idea on us, we received it, shared it with the Bergers, and they have joyfully, tearfully, gratefully embraced this. Since that moment, the momentum has picked up and everything has come together as tho it is being driven by a higher power -- and it is!

We originally planned to only build one cottage, but now we are aiming to build four--therefore, the 4 cottages collectively will be known as Josiah's House. Our church is supporting this, as well as many of Josiah's friends and the community where we live.

We are sending two young men down there next week to spend the next 6 weeks working with the SCORE reps and the Dominican crews to move this along as quickly as we can. We would love to have more construction groups involved but it doesn't appear any are lined up at this time.

The Berger family and about 25 of Josiah's friends are going to the DR the first week in April to also work on Josiah's House. We know there will still be much to be done, but we are hopeful there will be significant progress between now and then for them to see the potential.

Our goal is to have 8 boys per cottage with house parents in a family situation that will model Christ to them. We believe these boys will be nurtured, educated, loved, and grow into young men who love the Lord and want to serve Him. They are the future of the DR, and they can begin to change the culture there.

Thank you, again, for your prayers and support. May God continue to bless you abundantly.

Reese Smith

