

## Hans Higdon



My mission trip to the La Sagrada Familia parish community in the Dominican Republic gave me a new understanding of the many levels of poverty and the respective needs of the poor. I stayed with a family for a week. The family had a house with concrete walls and floors and a solid roof. There was consistently running water. The father was a plantain harvester. There were approximately ten people living under the roof including myself. By American standards, they would be considered poor. However, it was apparent that there were much poorer people in the community. This was humbling. Services or expectations we take for granted such as trash collection, good public education, available jobs, potable running water, sanitary systems, street lighting, a reliable and transparent election system, and public transportation just don't exist or can't always be trusted. Despite these conveniences that make life easier, they don't make a person a believer or faithful follower of Jesus. It was inspirational to see the very devout people with few possessions and in difficult situations who placed all their trust in God. This was inspirational.

- Hans Higdon