



Fr. Felix and his wife Berkys listening to our pre-Christmas dinner entertainment. The last two years we have had a congregational dinner a few nights before Christmas with all contributing something. It was a delightful evening of fellowship.

We have an active group of men in the church who are finding their ministry niche for the first time. Cesar and Amarante are leading us in a sing-a-long at the Christmas dinner. We lovingly call them all the 'Muchos', short for 'Muchachos'. The 'Muchos' had their first diocesan convention in January 2012, where 6 of our men went and were strengthened in their faith journeys, returning with enthusiasm to live their faith, bringing other men to Christ.



Marioli is holding her plate at the Christmas dinner. We had baked chicken, pork rinds, potato salad, an empanada, bread, a piece of apple, some local raisins (which have seeds in them) and a couple pieces of candy. We had soda to drink. Behind her you can see part of our new sound system.



I was thrilled one day last fall to step out in the gym to see it being used by 4 patients! For a long time it saw little to no use. Kendall and I were the ones to use it mostly. Thankfully now the others are considering the options for their patients there too!

We won't be seeing Eugenia around the therapy room for a while, as she recently gave birth to a healthy baby girl. She is the most organized of all the staff and was a true trooper during the two months that Ana was out on vacation and medical leave just before she delivered her baby! She is quick with a smile and a joke. Hopefully she'll be heading to the university soon to start her career studies! (That nasty black spray on the wall by the outlet is evidence of the electrical issues we've recently been having at the clinic.)



Here are the therapists at a last minute baby shower for Eugenia, just a few days before she delivered! In order, Emma, Brendaly (no longer working with us in San Pedro ☹), Claudia, Eugenia, Elena and me. Not pictured are Ana and Raquel.



Occasionally when on the bus, there will be a brief detour to get some fuel. Here is a picture of the gas station the bus I was recently on pulled in to 'fill up' in the middle of the route.

Unfortunately the lines may obscure the reading, but this is how much diesel the bus bought! The price per gallon is RD\$192.8 pesos and they bought RD\$200 pesos! These buses are not the most efficient vehicles, so one does wonder just how far they can go on 1.038 gallons of gas! All I know is I made it home and the bus headed back out for another run shortly afterwards. (I exchanged money recently at RD\$38.80 pesos/\$1 so a gallon of diesel is \$4.97/gallon.)

