Dear Pastor or Team Leader:

Thanks for your interest in partnering with us by bringing an AIM (students and leaders) or MAPS (college age+) team during 2017 or later. We would love to have a team come – and know it would be a blessing not only to your team members, but to our missionary ministry and national church as well. Here is some information you may share with your leadership team to help you make a decision about coming to the DR.

Berly and I work with the Assemblies of God and direct “National Teen Ministries” (MDA in Spanish) and “Uconexión” (Chi Alpha University Ministry) here in the Dominican Republic. We spend much time training youth leaders and university students as well as host events and activities for both ages. We work with churches all around the country. You can find much more info and pictures about our ministry on our website [www.bellos.org](file:///C:\Users\Jamie%20Bello\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\R28XUJ0D\www.bellos.org)

We have short term missions' teams come to work with us several times a year. Most teams come for an 8-9 day period in country (count arrival and departure day). As our focus is youth and university age, we try to maintain a target of ministry to teenagers and university students as much as we can with our teams. *In Late Fall 2017, we hope to begin receiving Construction teams as well (see letter E below.)*

**Currently we offer four different ministry focuses for teams:**

1. **Summer Teams (June – August) & Spring/Winter Break– Community Service & Outreach**

When teams come in the summer we partner with local church youth ministries to minister to their community. We partner with 2 – 3 different churches during the trip. First, we minister through community service projects to "Earn the Right to Be Heard". Types of community service include painting the local basketball courts, painting houses, "diva for a day" projects (free manicures/pedicures/ haircuts), single mom’s project (time for single mom’s to connect with each other and ladies from the church while we care for their children), giving out school supplies, cleaning up garbage in the street, dental clinics, AIDS Awareness seminars, sports clinics and playing games with the youth and children in the neighborhood. All these activities open the doors for us to be able to shift into the second ministry focus which is sharing the message of Christ through presentations of drama, testimonies, and music. We do this at the end of the community service project or later the same day in a nearby location.

1. **School Year Teams (Sept – May) – School Assemblies**

If the trip takes place during the school year, we like to make a focus on ministry through school assemblies in public and private schools – prioritizing junior high and high school ages. The assemblies focus on a “value’s” message delivered by the team, and illustrated through video, drama, music and testimonies. We will often choose to address Awareness & Prevention of Sex Trafficking and Sexual Abuse as well. Often we are permitted to openly share the message of Christ during the assembly. In addition to the assemblies, and depending on the team members’ experience, we try to include a youth leadership training opportunity as well.

1. **Event Co-Hosting Teams (specific dates throughout the year – ask us -- and sometimes specific skill sets required)**

Your team could partner with our National Teen Ministries to host a youth event (examples: camp-july, university ministry institute-august, youth convention-october, summerfest). These options require coordination with the event dates already on our ministry calendar. Our main purpose in these types of events is to mobilize students to action for Christ, to give them an opportunity for a personal encounter with Christ and for empowerment by Holy Spirit Baptism.

Your team would be involved in a variety of ministry formats – often depending on the team members’ skill sets and interests. We would coordinate the plans pre-trip quite well. Possibilities include (but are not limited to): loving on students, helping with “logistics” – set-up/tear down, serving, cleaning, leading games & ice breakers, dramas, assisting with Media Shout presentation software, projection of videos & loops/animations, filming/recording of events, photography, creating a brief promo video, and teaching breakout workshops on “arts and talents” topics. Recent breakout options have been first aid, self-defense, photography, video editing, drama, dance, card making, scrapbooking, friendship bracelets, nail art, no bake cooking, sewing, sign language, soccer, basketball… all based on team member’s skills and interests.  Some team members taught “solo” and some “team taught” in groups of 2 or 3.

1. **University Ministry & Puente Community Center (year round, especially Aug – May)**

Partner with us in our new ventures of Chi Alpha type university ministry “Uconexión” and our Puente (“bridge”) Community Center that is 1 block away from the largest university in Latin America – with 180,000 students enrolled! Ministry will be a combination of acts of kindness & service on the UASD campus and at the Puente Community Center location. We also may offer workshops, classes and conferences at Puente – depending on the teams skill sets: English, music, art, paper memories, diy projects, financial planning, job interview prep and more. Prayer walks on campus, one-on-one evangelism, and small group ministry alongside our Uconexion student leaders.

\*\*\*We have launched on other campuses as well (in Santo Domingo and in cities in the interior) – so we may visit one of those, partnering with the student leaders there.

1. **CONSTRUCTION REMODEL on Puente Community Center (beginning LATE FALL 2017 – in faith that we have successfully purchased the property, as is our goal, by June 2017.)**

We are amidst phase 2 of fund-raising towards purchasing the Puente Community Center property, where we have been renting space for two years. Our option to buy contract gives us until Dec. 2016 to determine whether we will purchase: A) the bottom level of the building at $180,000 US – which gives us an increase in space and ministry possibilities, OR B) the entire two story building plus outbuildings at $400,000US, giving us much more ministry options as well as housing for several Missionary Associates who come partner with the ministry. Either option must be paid in full by June 2017. We have already made initial deposits of $40,000 US, and are now into **Phase 2 – the next $60,000** due by September 1st, 2016. After that payment, we enter **Phase 3 – determining by December 2016** which A or B purchase option we will confirm to the owners. **Phase 4 is finalizing fund-raising** of rest of purchase cost and payment in June 2017.

Once purchased (either A or B option), we will begin the **CONSTRUCTION REMODEL phase with teams** coming to partner with us. The exact details are not outlined as of yet, but we know the remodel will include the following projects:

* Kitchen remodel (ceiling repair, existing cabinets removed and new installed, new appliances installed, potential flooring and tiling install.
* Plumbing repair / improvements
* Electrical work
* Wall demo / install of doorways-doors to gain access to newly acquired rooms/space at back of building (if option A – first floor only – is purchased.)
* Bathroom remodel (changing ½ bath to full bath)
* Adding closet to an office space to make a bedroom
* Sidewalk install alongside of building to lead to new back entry
* Painting ☺

This Construction Remodel will be a new ministry endeavor for Berly and I, and we will be finding some “experts” to help us design a plan, and calendar for the projects. But, first we must focus on the PURCHASE of the property – in order to make the REMODEL phase a reality come fall/winter 2017.

**If your construction team would like to invest in the PURCHASE phase – we would greatly value your partnership, and it would make scheduling your team much more likely. ☺ Let us know. Donations may be sent to AGWM, for Account #254557, Project #20142 – Class 60, Puente Community Center.**

**Along with your construction team per diem, we would request MAPS Construction project funds of $10,000 to be invested in the supplies and materials needed during your stage in the remodel. Please don’t hesitate to ask about this, if desired.**

You don’t have to know Spanish to do any of these 5 ministry focuses!!  We’ll have translators to help you accomplish it all.  But if team members do know Spanish, it is a great bonus and they will enjoy increased ability to interact and communicate with the people directly!

**#A, B, C and E Ministry Teams -- For 2017 the per diem cost will be $85\* per person/per day for the in-country expenses during the mission’s trip.** This is with the team housed at our Puente Community Center Guest Rooms (in comfortable bunks, with restrooms, a/c, kitchen and meeting facilities.)

If the team request to be housed at a hotel instead of our Puente Community Center, it may incur a $10 increase in per diem in order to cover higher hotel costs (a clean & air conditioned modest hotel), depending on team size and duration of stay.

**#D Ministry Teams (doing only University ministry) – for 2017 the per diem cost will be $75\*\* per person/per day for the in-country expenses during the mission’s trip. The lower per diem is due to major change in transportation needs. Team Size = 15 or less (all stay in Puente Center). If more, we house some at a small hotel near the Puente Center. The university is walking distance.**

**\*\*\*If we travel to the interior to visit other campuses, there may be a need to increase per diem in order to cover costs of transportation or housing there if stay overnight. This would be discussed with team leaders before implementing.**

It’s always possible that there be an increase due to inflation, but we will do our best to maintain this price. That cost covers your housing (in Puente Community Center Guest House), food, transportation, some minimal ministry expenses for the undertaken projects, a tourist day at the beach and a national ministry operations fee. When figuring the total cost, you include the days that you fly in and out of the country regardless of the time of day of the flights. It is also required that you register your missions trip with the AGWM AIM or MAPS office and purchase the emergency insurance that they make available via a specific insurance company at a minimal cost.

**In addition to the team member’s per diem cost, we request that the team (or their local church/ministry) send a special project offering (minimum of $2500). *[CONSTRUCTION TEAMS – project offering minimum is $10,000 and goes towards materials you will use in remodel of Puente Center.]*** This offering will go towards our current projects with the Uconexion or National Teen Ministries. Current priority – potential purchase of the Puente Center property with additional buildings/space for increased ministry long-term and team housing.

We may ask you to collect donation items or prizes to be used during the ministry your team hosts as well, depending on the ministry focus chosen.

Attached is a Team Leader info sheet that will give you more details to help you and the church make your decision about the trip. **Once you decide for sure you would like to come, and we set some firm dates, I will send an official invitation for your team to you & the AIM/MAPS office to begin that registration process.**

Please let me know if you have any further questions! Blessings on you and your church. We greatly value your teamwork with us!

Partnering in His service,

Berly & Jamie Bello

AGWM Missionaries to the Dominican Republic

Contact Info:

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[www.bellos.org](http://www.bellos.org)

360.339.7192 home/VOIP *(# remains same no matter whether we are Stateside or in D.R.)*

809-545-0587 Jamie DR cell (international fees apply)

809-707-9212 Berly DR cell (international fees apply)

*\*$85 p/p/d = 15+ person team. (Ministry Focus #A, B, C &/or E) $90 p/p/d for team of 10-14 persons. (smaller teams – to be determined on individual basis, a team of 6-8 could easily increase to $100 per diem.)*

*\*\*$75 p/p/d = 15+ person team. (Ministry Focus #D only) $80 p/p/d for team of 10-14 persons. (smaller teams – to be determined on individual basis, a team of 6-8 could easily increase to $85 per diem)*