



DOMINICAN
mission trip
REPUBLIC

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Dominican Republic 2018

I. Where are we going?

This year our church has selected the Dominican Republic for a missions trip. Here is a brief description about the country:

The second largest nation in the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic occupies the eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola in the Greater Antilles, with Haiti occupying the western portion. To the west are Jamaica and Cuba; Puerto Rico is east beyond the 112-kilometer Mona Passage; and the southern tip of Florida is about 1,000 kilometers away.

In the Dominican Republic, freedom of worship is established in the Constitution. At present, it is difficult to obtain the exact percentage of religious affiliation because the question was eliminated from the 1970 census questionnaire. According to the latest census results, the predominant religion group is Roman Catholic with 95% of the population.

Spanish is the official language of the country and street signs and restaurant menus are written in the mother tongue. Even though the people linked to the tourist trade generally speak English, knowing some Spanish is a great advantage.

II. When are we going?

We will be leaving Friday, July 6th and returning Saturday, July 14th. We will let you know if these dates vary for any reason due to flight schedules.

III. Who is able to go on this trip?

Our desire is that we provide an opportunity for you as a family to experience the mission field together. That being said we are welcoming youth (15 years and older), young adults, and adults to attend this trip.

Students under the age of 15 must be accompanied by their parent.

IV. Who will be our on-ground contacts?

We will be working with AG Missionaries Jamie and Berly Bello.

Berly and Jamie both grew up as pastor's kids in the Assemblies of God; Jamie in Washington State and Berly in the Dominican Republic. Berly's father formerly served as General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God in the Dominican Republic and is now the National Missions' Department Director and pastoring a church in Santo Domingo. Jamie's father, Wendell Kruger, serves as Consultant and Loan Originator with Assemblies of God Financial Services Group.

Jamie sensed God's call to youth ministry during summer camp at age 17. She studied for two years at Western Washington University and then went on to graduate from Northwest College in Kirkland, WA with a Bachelor's degree in Youth Ministries. Upon graduation, she served as

youth pastor in two churches of the Northwest Ministry Network for 5 years. As youth pastor, she began taking high school students on short term missions trips and soon sensed God directing her to full-time missions ministry with youth in Latin America. God's specific leading was to the Caribbean island nation of the Dominican Republic. In 1999 she was commissioned by the Assemblies of God as a single missionary and left for the field in 2001.

As a young boy, Berly sensed God's call to music ministry with a specific desire to minister to youth through music. He began to study piano with tutors, and studied for a couple years at the Conservatory of Music in Santo Domingo, D.R as a teenager. Ever since, he has studied intensely on his own, and has become an accomplished pianist and composer of music. In 1998 he formed his own band, 2000 DC. They recorded their first album, Caminante, and ministered in churches and concerts through the Dominican Republic. For several years he served as worship pianist and music director in a few churches in the Dominican Republic. He also ministers with other Christian artists and groups as a studio recording artist, composer, and producer.

More than halfway through Jamie's first missionary term in the Dominican Republic, she and Berly met at his local church's young adult camp. They began to work together in National Teen Ministries, and then married in January 2004. Upon their return to the States for itinerating, Berly completed his stateside missionary training and they were "re"-commissioned as a missionary couple with the Assemblies of God in the summer of 2004. They are now in itinerating in the USA from July 2016-Dec 2017 in order to return to the DR for their 4th missionary term.

Both Jamie and Berly can be reached as follows:

Phone: 360.951.4508 Jamie Cell

Phone: 360.951.4608 Berly Cell

Phone: 360.339.7192 home/VOIP line (WA number)

Email: jamie.bello@agmd.org

V. How will we get there?

We will be flying into the Dominican Republic through the airline that offers the best deal and can meet our travel dates. Most likely we will have layovers in either Atlanta or Miami before landing in the Dominican Republic.

VI. What is the Cost of the trip?

A. Church Cost: \$1550

VII. What does that cost include and exclude?

A. Includes

- a.** Airfare and Tourist Card
- b.** Housing
- c.** All vehicle rentals while in the DR
- d.** All meals while in the DR
- e.** Ministry Supplies while in DR
- f.** Mission Trip Insurance
- g.** Fun day in the DR

B. Excludes

- a. It will not cover travel day expenses.

VIII. How will we eat?

Three meals per day are provided once we get to the facility (you will be responsible for your food on the way there and back). It is important to prepare each child or youth to understand they will need to eat the food that is served to them. It is considered rude to not eat what is given and we want to make sure we don't come across as thinking we are better than them.

The following "food rules" must be rigidly observed:

1. All food will either be supplied directly or approved by the missionary.

Do not eat fresh vegetables or fruit unless approved by the director. Exceptions: If you can peel it and throw away the peel, you can eat it. This includes bananas, citrus fruits, etc. Do not buy "cut" fruit from stands, even if the peel is still on it. When in doubt, ask.

2. Soft drinks with familiar United States trade names, such as Coca-Cola, Pepsi-Cola, 7-up, etc. may be consumed if these soft drinks are provided in bottles or cans.

Important: Wipe the top of bottled drinks dry before drinking. See "Safe Water" section.

3. Dairy products, including ice cream, must be approved by the directors--no exceptions. Milk may be available as part of our daily meals, and may be consumed as part of those meals when eating with the entire group.

Note: It may be very hot and you might be tempted to buy just one little slush or snow cone. Don't do it! You can get a serious case of diarrhea by consuming contaminated frozen refreshments.

Safe Water:

All water in the DR, except certified purified bottle water, is contaminated with microscopic organisms call "amoebae". Their presence in your body will cause severe diarrhea. Some nationals can drink this water without adverse effects because their bodies have developed immunity to the amoebae. But visitors to their country have no such protection, and very serious problems can develop. There is absolutely no danger for those who obey some simple rules. The following rules will help you:

- 1. The only water you may drink is certified, purified water provided by the missionary.**
- 2. Do not use any ice unless it has been approved. Freezing does not kill amoebae.**
- 3. Do not use "tap water" for brushing your teeth, or for taking medications.**
- 4. When showering, avoid getting water in your mouth.**

IX. What are the standards for the trip? (Conduct)

- No cell phones allowed: No news is good news!
- Be on time for all meals, work details, ministry areas, church services, travel times, and all other events.
- Use the Buddy System. Always have someone with you!
- DO NOT bring any weapons with you on the trip.
- Drink a minimum of 48 ozs of water a day
 - Bring a water bottle with your name on it
- DO NOT drink faucet water
- Keep all appliances cleaned after every use. Keep the floors swept and cleaned at all times.
- Do not leave the Puente Community Center. Your leader must know where you are at all times and you must have a buddy!
- Wear socks at all times while doing ministry outreach or a community service project.
- Shorts and tank tops are not permitted for ladies
- You should wear hats and sun lotion in the sun
- Be polite and considerate of others
- NO smoking while on the trip
- Come prepared to serve and share God's love to others.
- Dominicans generally have high respect for those in authority. They will be disappointed if they observe anyone in the group showing disrespect to those in charge.
- Public display of romantic affection is prohibited at any time between members of the team. This includes during the ministry as well as during the shopping or the recreation time. There will be no coupling off by unmarried couples.
- Luggage responsibility: Each person is responsible for their own luggage. Don't expect someone else to handle yours. If it's too heavy for you to carry comfortably, don't bring it! There is a limit on how much luggage you can bring! The limit is one medium bag and one small hand bag.
- Personal items: Everyone will be responsible for their own possessions. Do not expect someone else to "look after" your things. Be aware of theft, especially in public places that are crowded (such as shopping).
- List your address on your tourist visa as: Concilio Evangelico de las Asambleas de Dios, Km 12 1/2 Autopista Duarte, Ens. Alameda, Santo Domingo, Tel. 809-564-3454

X. What do I need to bring?

- A good attitude
- A prayed up person
- Your bible
- Notepad and pen
- Tennis shoes
- Dress shoes for Church Services
- Church clothes
- Flip Flop Sandals
- Clothing: sports, sleeping attire, jeans
- Two single bed sheets
- A small pillow if you need it
- Something warm to sleep in
- Mosquito Repellant
- Personal hygiene items – Don't forget a hat and sunscreen!
 - Deodorant
 - Body Wash
 - Shampoo
 - Toothbrush
 - Toothpaste
 - Hair supplies
 - Sunscreen
 - Hand Sanitizer
 - Ladies, be sure to bring enough feminine products for the length of the trip. Even if you are not expecting to begin your monthly cycle, plan ahead because trips like this can cause the female body to start early.
- 2 Towels and 1 wash cloth
- Offerings for church
- Money for meals while traveling
- Spending money for shopping day
- Ministry items, which will be discussed as the trip gets closer
- Tools if doing a construction project, which will be discussed
- Proper clothing for the ministry we do
- Cameras or videos
- Pepto-Bismol or Kaopectate tablets, Imodium
- Pain Reliever
- Small flashlight
- Sunglasses or hat or both
- Beach towel
- Swimsuit (One piece only for the girls)
- Work gloves, if on work team
- Hand Sanitizer

XI. Clothing Policy

Lightweight, wash-and-wear clothing (cotton and cotton-blends) are recommended. The Caribbean sun is very strong. You may want to bring a hat to protect your head from the sun, if you are sun sensitive.

A different standard for dress exists for the Dominican Christians than for Christians in the U.S. Since you are here to work with the national church, please respect their standards. You will want to relate to the Christian community, so dress conservatively.

Ladies:

During ministry times conservative skirts and blouses will be worn. During ministry times, pants, shorts, sleeveless sundresses or blouses where shoulders are exposed, should not be worn. Jewelry should be small and inconspicuous. Makeup must be natural looking. Bring beach/play outfits for free times (long Bermuda shorts or pants).

If you are on a construction team, please dress as conservatively as possible. Pants or shorts may be worn on site after consulting with the team leader or missionary. Some areas of the country are extremely sensitive and breaking the cultural expectations can cause problems and resentment. When in doubt, please ask.

Men:

Same rules above apply. OK, OK...you can wear pants! No earrings or necklaces. Extreme hair styles are not acceptable. Long pants must be worn during ministry times. Bring a collar shirt for Sunday services. (If you are doing pulpit ministry you need to wear a coat and tie) Bring beach/play outfits for free times.

XII. What will the sleeping arrangements be?

We will be staying at the Puente Community Center during our duration of the trip.

We'll do our best to make sure families are placed together as much as possible, however, realize that this is not a hotel and we're on a mission trip; which means we must be flexible.

XIII. What documentation will I need?

Each person entering the Dominican Republic must have a valid passport. If a child is going with one parent it is required that they have a notarized letter from the other parent stating that they gave permission to the traveling parent to take their child to the DR on the dates of the trip. Any youth going with the youth ministry will have to have a valid passport and proper documents filled out, which will be provided, in order for them to go on the trip.

XIV. What will we be doing while there?

We will be doing a variety of ministry while in the DR, however, we will not be nailing down the details of what we will be doing the week we are there until it gets closer to the trip. Below is a possibility of what we'll be doing:

A) 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.