



Dominican Republic Mission Team Team Information Pre-Trip Information

Contact Information

www.colegiomoriah.org

Tanis and Esther Delorus
809.878.6198 Esther
809.866.8018 Tanis

tanisestherderolus@yahoo.com

Address

**Colegio Evangelico Moriah
Calle Alfredo Manon
Las Colinas 2 San Pedro de Macoris Republica Dominican**

Important Details

Where are you going?

The island of Hispaniola lies in the Caribbean between Puerto Rico and Cuba. Two countries share the island: Haiti and the Dominican Republic. For generations, there have been divisions between the two nations.

Why would you be going to the DR

The Board of Directors encouraged teams to go to the DR for several years. We go as partners in a ministry in **San Pedro de Macorís**. We have worked alongside our Haitian brothers and sisters in the building of a school, church, and dormitory. We can work alongside our Haitian friends in construction or maintenance which is always necessary. We can go to the hospitals and visit and pray for the many who are sick, we can take care packages to give out. We can lead a bible study group, or lead a training session with the many in the church or community. We can help in the school with permission from the school administration. The teachers love it when we develop teaching aids that can be used in the classroom. Many children in the school can only participate in the public education system with proof of Dominican citizenship. Great work is underway, but there is much more to be done! We encourage you to get ideas from Pastor Tanis and Esther on how you help at the compound or the school. There is always something for each person to do.

Brief history of the DR.

There are many injustices in this world. In the DR, injustice takes the form of the oppression of Haitian people. In the past, workers from Haiti poured into the DR to support the vast production of sugar, where they were treated like slaves. Dominicans, determined to deny any opportunities to Haitians and their families who have lived in the DR for generations, try to ensure that Haitians remain undocumented, without rights as citizens. Many of the places the Haitians came to work have now been closed and families live from day to day often not knowing where the money for their next meal will come from. Now there is unrest in the country of Haiti and many are fleeing the country. They are coming into the community of Las Colinas and are very needy. The church is overwhelmed with all of the help that is needed. (I encourage you to do some research on your own as well.) Pray that the Lord will lead you in the ways that you can help.

What do I need to do?

Get a Valid Passport

These can be gotten at most Major U.S. Post Offices *Start this process soon so you have plenty of time. Now you can get or renew a passport online. Your passport must not expire within 6 months of travel dates. Make 2 copies of your passport, keep one copy home, and take the second photocopy along with you. The reason for this is in case your original is lost or stolen.

Send out at least 20 Letters to friends and family to let them know you are a member of a team. You could also let them know of the opportunity to give towards your trip or the overall project. Ask them to pray for you and your team, and to help support you at the expense of taking a mission trip.

Pay/Raise the amount your team leader sets for airfare, room, and board. (food in the DR), transportation, some construction supplies

E-Ticket - Starting in 2023, all travelers going to the Dominican Republic must have an E-Ticket in hand at the boarding gate. Travel moves faster if you can get this ahead of time at home on your computer and on your own time. Make sure that you do not pay for this; it is free for all travelers. There are many scams out there. This E-Ticket should be free. You can print out the QR code or save it on your phone.

Here is the website where you can go to get your [E-Ticket](#). There is a button you can click on to access this in English.

Some of the information that you will need is listed in this document. The address where you will be staying. You will also be going as a volunteer or missionary. You will also find this link on the Colegio Moriah website.

*** All money must be given/sent to your team leader's church. That church will forward the funds to***

FOCM

Rev Dennis Ashley.

37 Borden Rd

Walden NY 12586

A day in the DR.

Breakfast

Group Devotional/prayer time

Prepare for work

Work/Teach English, help in the school

Lunch/Break time

Small group time

Dinner

Lights Out

Time in the DR

I could put times beside the daily activities, but time in the DR is a bit different than time in the US. If you are used to a very scheduled day, begin to prepare yourself to be flexible. When you are told a specific time in the DR you can expect that there is a range anywhere from 15 minutes to a day that the event will take place. So take a deep breath and enjoy the relaxed life of the DR.

Time off

You can take a day to enjoy some sights and scenery in the DR. If you take the bus, there will be an **extra bus fee \$100.00 for a San Pedro or close and \$200 for a beach farther away**. Many people go to a nice beach for the day. If Pastor Tanis and Esther agree, you are welcome to invite some of the family from the church to go with you.

Many people come to church only when the teams come, they do not know them. Pastor Tanis does not want to be personally responsible for people in the community they do not know. Minors from the church should never be invited unless they have their parent's permission and they accompany them on the field trip.

Sundays are also a day of refreshment and worship. You will attend church services. There are also nightly church services, we encourage you to attend some of them also. They take up their offering in a fun-filled, joyous way. Be prepared to have some cash in hand so that you can join them in giving your offerings.

Why \$\$\$\$?

A few things go into this cost. Air Travel, your room, and board, and some money for programs and construction. The fundraisers you do are in hopes of raising funds for the project (construction and programs). If you would like to see the costs in more detail that can be made available to you by your team leader. The ladies of the church serve and care for us. Some of the funds go to pay the workers from the church who cook and clean for us. This is their way to better their lives as they work.

What should I bring?

- * Skirts and dresses (women) *T-shirts,
- *Shorts (work and casual) *Sweatshirt * Swimsuit (*one piece) *Socks * Undergarments * Hat
- *Dress Clothes * Shoes (casual/dress) * Sandals * Work Shoes * Running Shoes (running club) * Toothbrush *Toothpaste (Small size) * Soap *Shampoo (Small size)* Hand Sanitizer * Female Products * Q-Tips* Hair Ties * Shaving Stuff *ChapStick with sunblock * Towels * \$ for a few travel meals (about \$40) * \$ for Offering * \$ for souvenirs (between \$50-200) * * Bible
- *Writing Utensils *Book * Ear Plugs *Water Bottle *Camera *Sun Screen * Flashlight/Headlamp* * Work Gloves * Bug Spray/ net O Sunglasses * *Snacks to share * Tools need
- * Personal Medications

**** IMPORTANT NOTE: While in the DR it is important to recognize that we are representatives of the church in the DR. We have been asked to dress modestly, so please be aware of what you pack; longer skirts, one-piece bathing suits, & appropriate shirts.***

- * The church ladies will do laundry for us!

Airport Adventure

*Don't forget your passport, ID

You will need your E-Ticket filled out at home and with you, as you stand at the boarding gate.

** Keep all your documents in a safe place (including tickets and baggage claim tags).

Upon arrival:

The goal is to get to your departure gate. After finding our home base, you can go in groups of 3 or more about the airport. Be sure you have your tickets and passport with you and that you don't exit anywhere (otherwise you'd have to go through security again)

Monitor the time, we don't want anyone to miss the flight.

While traveling, please be:

respectful

honest

serious in security areas

aware of the time, your stuff, and those around you with a group of 3 or more

patient, avoid getting frustrated

When you exit the plane, find a good spot to get out of the way and wait for the rest of the team.

When we get to the DR:

-Go through customs

-Get a luggage cart

-Find your luggage

-Wait/help the rest of the team to get their bags

-We will leave the baggage area together & find our bus

DR History

Taken From Yahoo Education

Explored and claimed by Columbus on his first voyage in 1492, the island of Hispaniola became a springboard for the Spanish conquest of the Caribbean and the American mainland. In 1697, Spain recognized French dominion over the western third of the island, which in 1804 became Haiti. The remainder of the island, known as Santo Domingo by then, attempted to gain independence in 1821, but the Haitians conquered and ruled it for 22 years. In 1861, the Dominicans voluntarily returned to the Spanish Empire, but two years later they launched a war that restored independence in 1865. In 1966, Joaquin Balaguer became president, ending a legacy of unsettled, mostly non-representative, rule for much of its subsequent history. He maintained a tight grip on power for most of the next 30 years when international reaction to flawed elections forced him to curtail his term in 1996. Since then, regular competitive elections have been held in which opposition candidates have won the presidency.

Dominican Republic People:

Population: 1.4 million

Infant mortality rate: 7.1 deaths per 1,000 people. The crude death rate is the number of deaths per 1,000

Life expectancy at birth: total: 74.81 years (2023 est.)

HIV/AIDS — people living with HIV/AIDS: 88,000 (2003 est.)

Religions: Roman Catholic 95%

Expectations while in the DR

Remember you are guests

Be respectful to all

Clean up after yourself

Turn lights off when not needed

Don't drink the water

Drink water (clean water that is)

Wear Sunscreen, and a hat (especially if you don't have hair!)

Be kind to one another

Look to help each other out, care for one another

Keep our area as clean as possible

Work hard when it is time to work

Encourage one another

Be willing to do whatever you can to help

Let the leaders know if there is an issue

When moving between the bathroom and dorm rooms, guys, you need to be fully dressed (this includes your t-shirt).

If you are not feeling well, let your team leader know ASAP!

Participate in your small group meeting and clean up from the meal when it is your group's turn.

****Whenever someone is not using the fans and lights please turn them off.**

**** If you are the last to leave a room remember to turn the lights off. Electricity is very expensive there.**

****Do not leave the walled complex without letting a leader know where you are going. You must go in groups of 3 when you do leave.**

Night time

Respect quiet hour (10 pm) and lights out (11 pm) After 10 pm there must be silence in the dormitory area, if the members of the group want to socialize and talk loudly, they can go to the basketball court or the dormitory roof. We want to respect the neighbors, so try to be considerate, even though they are the scandalous ones. We want to model the example of the Christian community and have consideration for those elderly people in the area and others who work very early and need to have their rest.

Food

If there is something you don't like at a meal, don't make a big deal about it. Instead, enjoy peanut butter and jelly. When you are out in town, only eat fruit that you can peel, and avoid uncooked food. Every meal is fantastic and there is always plenty to go around. Enjoy the dining experience as a team. Invite friends to join us as we eat.

What should I collect?

Each year, team members bring down a variety of things for those in the DR. I have listed below some of these things. Be sure in your hunting that you look for quality. Each extra bag will cost you \$\$ and can weigh only 50 lbs and they can fill up quickly. Instead of paying for an extra bag, you can spend that money on items at Jumbo and donate them to the school or church.

Flashlights

Women's Dress Clothes

Children's Clothes

Men's Dress Shirts and Ties

Pencils, Erasers

Crayons, Markers

Educational Books in Spanish

Baby items

Diapers

Wash clothes

Toothbrushes/toothpaste

Soap

Laptops computers

Please do not give any money to the community, or the friends that you make. The wise decision would be to allocate those funds to Tanis and Esther or the church deacons. They have extensive expertise in helping those in need. They know what the genuine needs are.

What tools will I need?

This question has several answers. If you are a skilled individual in your field you may have certain tools that you want to be sure you have with you (ie. a carpenter's favorite hammer). Just a word of warning: you may be asked to leave tools behind or feel compelled, so you may wish to bring your spare hammer or saw. Tools in the DR can be different, so if you require something special it may be best to bring it with you. Remember that weight can become an issue so be sure to prioritize what you'll need. Those of us who are hard workers, yet not skilled laborers don't need to worry about bringing any special tools. What we need will be provided.

Gift Shop

Eli Tanis manages a gift shop and the funds from the store help with the expenses in the school. This shop serves 2 purposes. The school students can go there to purchase a pencil, tablet, or any supplies that they need. If you want, you can collect some of these items and take them to the school store. Or you can go to Jumbo and purchase these items to help keep his inventory supplied.

Also, they have gifts that you can purchase to take home for friends. They make t-shirts, and coffee mugs, and have jewelry and trinkets. They will carry the coffee and vanilla that you all seem to want.

They will have sodas and snacks in the gift shop if you need to satisfy your cravings.

Again this helps the school. Take your money and buy.

How do I share my mission experience with others?

You will come home filled with many blessings and memories. We ask that you share these with your family, and your church family and ask them to help you keep the ministry going. You can continue to do fundraisers, set up a donation jar in your Sunday School classroom, or encourage members to sponsor a child. If you are on a mission board, encourage your church to set a budget category for the Dominican Republic, Colegio Moriah school.

Here is the [website that you can share to sponsor a child](#). This site will go live in Jan 2025.

The board would also like to hear from you about the experiences that you had. Write a small report or send in a few photos. These may be shared in a blog or website. We want to keep the light focused on the school and the great work that is going on there.

We have many donors that help support the school, but we are praying and trusting the LORD for more!