



Dominican Republic Mission Team Leader Guide

Leading a missions team is not easy. There is work to be done, and many components along the way. We have tried to include some helpful information below, however getting input from those who have led teams in the past is an incredible resource. We would be happy to help connect you to someone who has led teams previously at any point in this process, just let us know.

Some key steps when planning a trip to the Dominican Republic (DR)

1. Prayerfully consider the possibility to leading a team
2. Consider how many people you'd like to lead and what is your purpose/focus
3. Communicate your interest to your church leaders and ask for their input
4. Consider the timing and costs of a trip to the DR
 - A major factor to consider timing is that there are occasions when there is already a team serving in the DR.
 - Some factors to consider in costs are flights, travel to and from the airports, food and lodging in the DR, funds for work projects and donations.
5. Before booking flights, express your interest to the Friends of Colegio Moriah via email or using the form on the website.
6. Before booking flights, reserve and coordinate dates of your trip (tanisestherderolus@yahoo.com).
7. See who might be interest in participating in the mission. We recommend a small application process, but this is not a requirement.
8. Explore flights (group ticketing or a travel agent). High Point Travel has been helpful for our teams. Often you can reserve tickets for a minimal fee and remove those you don't need within a certain time frame.

9. Gather your team members and begin to meet. Provide them with information about the experience and the expectations.
10. Help your team provide the funds necessary for your journey; either through churches, individuals, or requests through prayer/support letters. Be sure you are clear where they are to send the funds.
11. Have a means of tracking the funds as they come in. Encourage your team to express their gratitude to those who contributed to their trip.
12. Print off and fill out the lodging/payment form and send in the necessary funds 4 weeks prior to your arrival. This can include funds for construction/ ministry as well, just be sure to indicate that in your communication.
13. Keep in regular communication with Esther regarding housing needs, any dietary restrictions, and trip details.
14. Prepare questions for small group discussions, devotions, and ministry opportunities.
15. Collect general health information and emergency contacts for your team members.
16. Go with a servant's heart. Seek the input of your hosts, and be willing to follow the Lord's leading.
17. If you take a day to enjoy some sights and scenery in the DR. The bus fee is \$100 for a short trip (Jan Dolio is a nearby beach, Jumbo is a store). Other beaches are further and cost \$200. * Please note, it is not required to take people with you (although you will always have a few folks to help). If you do bring folks from the church realize they may not be swimmers, and consider this in your decision making. Pastor Tanis does not want to be personally responsible for people in the community they do not know, and no minor should join you without a parent.

You have done a lot of prep work at this point, way to go! There are still a few more things to consider, before you go...

- Encourage your team to watch the Helping Without Hurting video series (Parts 1-6) found on Youtube. ([Click here for the link to Helping without hurting video Part 1](#)). This is very helpful material and essential for leaders to be familiar with.
- Spend time reflecting on the A few good reminders from Gods Principles for Successful Short Term Missions Trips at the end of this document.
- Ask people to join you in prayer - this is extremely important. Ask your church to pray for you and the team prior to your departure and while you are away.
- Do your homework on leading an overseas short term mission for the glory of God. Learn about the country and it's history, and start to get to know your team.
- Invite the team to pray about how the Lord might use their gifts on this trip. Explore what those gifts might be in advance and plan accordingly.
- Certain projects may require special supplies. This is something to consider and even collect in advance. There are tool cabinets with available tools in the DR dorm area for teams to use, as well as a stocked medical cabinet. Reaching out ahead of time and planning ahead can save bringing duplicate items or not having something you might need.

Help your team have what they need

- Share and highlight the information from the "Team Member Guide" including, but not limited to
 - how and what to pack
 - how and what to pay
 - how and what to pray
 - how and what to collect regarding donations
 - expectations while in the DR
 - things to be aware of culturally
 - what the conditions are like (noisy nights, cold showers...)
 - how to get a valid passport in a timely manner and guiding them with the e-ticket process (It is wise to have a copy of every team members passport and their e-ticket)

When you return home

- Plan a reunion/debrief to reflect on the time in the DR and to pray
- Prepare and present your missions experience both as a team and individuals. Share how the Lord was at work before you arrived, how He worked through you, and how he continues to work. Seek opportunities to share at your church, and your school.
- Prayerfully lift up the ongoing ministry in the DR.
- Prayerfully consider sponsoring a student or supporting the school financially.
- We would appreciate it if you would share how the Lord worked on your trip. This helps the Friends of Colegio Moriah document the amazing ways the Lord is at work through those who go! Please email your reports to Kathy Burge: kburge49@gmail.com

DR Contact Information

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A few good reminders from Gods Principles for Successful Short Term Missions Trips

By the AEC Borquist 2000

God is the head of the Mission Program

- You (We) are not taking God to this place, rather God is taking you (us)! (Gen. 12:1-3, Ps. 139: 1-10)
- God has been at work in this place long before you (we) arrived.
- God has a plan for this community, these people. (Jer. 29:11; 1 Tim. 2:3-5, 2 Peter 3:9)
- Follow God's lead, not yours (ours).
- God will always be with you (us). (Matt. 28:20b; Rom. 8:38-39; Heb 13:5)

Open Heart, Open Hands

- An open heart is free to be filled by the Holy Spirit and overflow with Love. (John 14:15-17; Acts 13:2-4; Rom 5:3-5)
- An open heart is free to be broken by the injustice and poverty of the world. (Deut. 15:7-8; Ps 9:18; Ps 82:3-4; Gal 2:10)
- An open hand is ready to receive.
- An open hand is a sign of good will and humility. (Gal 5:22)
- An open hand cannot clutch a clock, a schedule, a shovel, a stereotype. Take a deep breath when things don't start or end on time; there are more important things in life than sticking to a schedule.
- Be flexible - things will rarely go as you planned.

Doing is Less Important than Being

- Be like Jesus, walk as Jesus walked. (1 John 2:6; Matt 5:1-16; John 15:1-14)
- Be human beings not human doings! (1 Thes. 5:11)
- Focus on people, not just on the task. (1 John 3:18)
- Work on building relationships, not monuments. (Rom 12:9-15)

A servant's Heart

- Learn from your hosts; honor them and God by serving them (John 13:12-17).
- Find out what your host prays for and then commit to praying for it, too (James 5:16)
- Accept the leadership of your hosts. You are not the one in charge.
- Practice humility! (Luke 22:24-27; James 4:10)
- There are many ways of doing things; yours is only one and it may not be right for this time or place.
- Be adaptable - try new things, set aside biases, and work on fitting into the culture

10 Thoughts for Short Term Missions teams (source unknown)

1. Be focused on God's glory among the nations. (Rom 15:8-9)
2. Be humble: Defer to the host leaders and to one another in love. Be slow to speak, and do not think of ourselves more highly than we ought. Be quick to serve. (Phil 2:6-8)
3. Be prepared to spend yourself and be spent. Let even your weariness remind you of the worth of the gospel.
4. Be Flexible. Our plans almost always don't turn out like we make them. Be prepared to happily toss your plans and take on the ministry of God is in control.
5. Be a learner. Part of humility is realizing you don't know it all be willing to ask questions and learn. Honor our host by as
6. Be encouraging. See this trip as a chance to be a huge encouragement to those you serve and those you serve with.
7. Be extravagant in service. Be ready and willing to care for people extravagantly, even beyond what seems reasonable. 3 John 5-8
8. Be low maintenance. Let's not become a burden to the people we are there to serve. Be ready to forgo things you might enjoy, to serve those you've come to bless.
9. Be patient. The pace and rhythm of many nations (including the DR) is much different than what you are used to. Be patient and trust the Lord, even when the pace is not what you may prefer.
10. Be focused on God's glory among the nations: God's promise of forgiveness, redemption and fellowship is worth more than anything else we do while we are there. Love God and love others. Build relationship (not buildings) that will last a lifetime and beyond.