

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Summer Mission Newsletter

Home for a month!

It seems like it was only a couple days ago that we returned from the Dominican Republic! Although it has been several weeks, the stories, experiences, and travel are still fresh to the mind. Life has continued back here in the states, but the things learned and seen still linger on the heart.

Strategic Ministry Time

There is so much to say about our Strategic Ministry Time (SMT) that I could easily fill up this page and multiple others. I will try to briefly give you an overview with some details. Each morning around 10:00 am after driving an hour and a half to Santiago we would pair up with our translators. We left the church after a word of prayer. Our team was split into two teams. Each team would walk to different homes, businesses, or people on the street to engage in conversation.

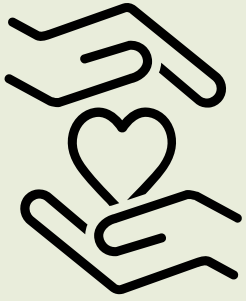
The first morning was the most difficult as teams learned how to have a conversation through a translator. By the end of the week, conversations seemed to be easier to initiate, and continue. (continued next page)

Our Hope:

"To partner with Mission of Hope to be an extension of that ministry, and ultimately an extension of the hands and feet of Jesus to those in the Dominican."

Mission of Hope:

"An organization that follows Jesus, existing to bring life transformation to every person. They seek to partner with local churches, and indigenous leaders so that ongoing ministry takes place long after teams have gone home."



Teams talked with families, grandparents, single mom with kids, business men, aunts & uncles, Haitian natives living in the DR, natives to the DR, and the list continues on. The conversations with people varied in length from 10 minutes to being invited in for lunch for over an hour.

Each team had a variety of focused conversations including; sharing their testimony, asking questions about their faith, sharing the Gospel, praying over ones who had recently had surgery, listening to the hurts and frustrations of those who had moved from Haiti to the DR. Each team worked together to ask questions, actively listen, and then engage as the Holy Spirit led them.

One team had the opportunity to sit in a young couples home, and listen to the hardships of fleeing Haiti to find respite in the DR. As the husband shared it became evident that he believed in Jesus as Lord & Savior. He shared about his faith, and how he was trusting God to provide even in the midst of the hardships. The team was encouraged by his strength, and faith. The team prayed over him and his family. As they left the wife ran to find them around the corner to ask what church they could get plugged in to.

Yes, SMT was difficult, but multiple team members said that it ended up being the part of the ministry that they enjoyed the most!

Sports Camp



Sports camp was each day in the afternoon for about 2 hours. Our space was a large covered basketball court right in the center of busy Santiago. Kiddos from everywhere walked each day to join us. Yes, it was a bit chaotic at moments as the translators tried to help us convey directions, motions, and the story. Each day camp began with a big group game followed by small intentional skills and drills. At the "Half-Time" of camp each day, a skit, story, or devotional was shared for the different age groups. This time was intentionally Scripture based. After half-time kids could scrimmage or create crafts. Most of the younger kids spent the time making bracelets, sand art, or coloring pages that went along with the story. Following scrimmage time all the kids were gathered together for huddle time. This time provided the core focus for the afternoon. From our team Kylee shared her testimony one day, and Liam shared the Gospel with his Rubiks cube. It was awesome to see how the kids listened each day. The local church followed up our sports camp with a Saturday camp to encourage more kids to get involved at the church, and continue building relationships.

- *team members would continue to see and learn how God moved*
- *from what team members experienced they would continue to grow in their relationship with Jesus*
- *all who supported prayerfully & financially would see their role in this trip*

Prayer for:

- *families & people who heard the gospel for the first time*
- *kids that were at sports camp would continue to plug in at the local church*