

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Summer Mission Newsletter

Less than 1 week

WOW!! It is crazy to think that this coming Friday, the team leaves for the DR. Our hope for this 3 part Newsletter is to communicate now, during and after the trip to keep you updated on things that are happening and have happened. This first newsletter will bring you up to speed on what's been happening as the team prepares to leave.

Our Team

You might be asking who is a part of this year's team to the Dominican Republic. That is a great question, because we are blessed with 11 wonderful people going from Pleasant Dale. This includes; Logan Clark, Kylee & Haylie Frock, Tristen & Titus Morgan, Dave Jackson, Thomas & Cassie Jackson, and Elliott, Bridgette, & Liam Ripley. The other really sweet part about "our team" is that the Bridge Community Church in Decatur also has a team going at the same time. We will be parting with them in our afternoon ministry time in the DR.

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."

What will the team be doing?



Our team will have two focuses while in the Dominican Republic. In the mornings, teams of 5/6 will partner with local churches for a time called SMT (Strategic Ministry Time). During this time, each group will have a translator, Mission of Hope rep, and local pastor and or representative. Teams will be in communities that are closely tied to the church in that area. The purpose is to meet families, and build relationships with them. Teams will ask questions, share about who they are and why they are there. If the opportunity presents itself teams will share the gospel, pray over the families, or discover that they are a part of a committed faith community already.

In the afternoons the team will be hosting a sports camp. This camp will focus on students ranging from ages 6 to 13. The teams will teach basic skills to learn and know the sports. There will be drills, and fun games that will help the kids learn these sports. In the middle of the sports camp there will be an intentional sharing time. This is where team members will share their testimonies, and a devotional with illustration that relates to sports.

Team Preparation

Over the last few months the team has met 5 different times. Each team meeting has had a different focus and initiative. One of the first meetings included getting to know one another better. This was a great way to hear the strengths, personalities, and interests of each team member. There was also an intentional time of discovering what it looks like to serve cross culturally. The foundation for the remaining meetings was built upon discussion on God's mission throughout Scripture and what He calls his people to. One meeting sticks out as being a lot of fun, but really helped the team as a whole prepare for our ministry time in the DR. We role played as teams working through starting a conversation with a new family, and discovering who they are, and moving towards a place of sharing the gospel and/or praying with them. One of our last meetings together we worked through testimonies, and sharing the gospel as a team. Our most recent meeting on Sunday evening was a co-joined meeting with the other team from the Bridge to get to know them, and discuss our sports camp details.

Prayer for:

- *families & people the team meets during the SMT in the mornings*
- *hearts of the kids coming to sports camp*
- *team members to trust God leading in each and every way*
- *all passports would arrive/be found before Thursday*
- *safety as the team travels*

