



# GRAFTED

INTO THE STORY



GO Ministries  
2017–2018 Mission Teams Leader Guide  
Dominican Republic and Haiti

**GO Ministries seeks to empower passionate, local leaders serving inside their own cultures to Redeem people, Renew communities and Restore creation by developing dynamic international, mutually transformational partnerships.**



## GO MINISTRIES

11501 Plantside Drive, Suite 14  
Louisville, KY 40299  
(502) 493-9846 Fax (502) 493-9252  
[www.gomin.org](http://www.gomin.org)

Dear Team Leader,

We are humbled and grateful for the opportunity to work with you and your team. It's our privilege to support you and partner with your church or organization in discipling your team members towards a deeper missional lifestyle once they return from their time with GO in the Dominican Republic or Haiti.

GO Ministries has been leading teams on the island of Hispaniola for over 20 years! We provide our teams with passionate staff who will take care of the logistical details and provide guidance throughout the planning process in preparation for your trip.

Our desire is for each individual who serves with GO to leave the island a different person. Our continual focus remains to provide deep meaningful ministry opportunities and self-reflection time with God that produces mutual transformation in the lives of local leaders and team members.

Thousands of people (from all over the US and beyond!) have come to the DR and Haiti to provide medical and dental clinics, sports camps, lead worship conferences, provide childrens ministry, and to build churches, nutrition centers, schools, repair homes, and continue construction on the GO Leadership Development Complex and GO Medical Center.

The most important thing you can do to prepare your team is to pray. Prayer will prepare the hearts of you and your team for your trip and produce changed attitudes and lives.

Your team members will be looking to you for leadership and guidance from the day you hold your first meeting. It's important to lead by example and to seek the Lord with all of your heart, mind and soul in each and every aspect of the preparations, your time on the field, and in the follow-up when you return home.

Your relationship with God and your willingness to listen to Him will make all the difference in your team's experience. Things may not go as planned but if we are spiritually prepared, we can recognize God's hand in the way he shapes our teams and our trips.

We look forward to working with you to Redeem, Renew, and Restore!



# CONTENTS

## **TEAM LEADER INFORMATION.....**

Contact Information.....	6
Team Trip Application & Covenant.....	7-8
GO Ministry Hubs.....	9
Resource Center.....	10
Moving Forward.....	11-12
Mission Trip Costs.....	13-14
Team Leader Timeline.....	15-16
What to Expect.....	17-18
Focused Areas of Ministry.....	19-24

## **TEAM MEMBER INFORMATION.....**

Team Member Guide.....	25-26
Trip Application.....	27-28
Medical Release.....	29
Indemnification Agreement.....	30
Team Member Agreement.....	31
Packing List.....	32
Fundraising.....	33-34
Ministering Cross-culturally.....	35

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES.....**

Journaling & Debriefing.....	36
Continuing the Mission.....	37
Hispaniola Facts.....	38

# CONTACT INFORMATION

## FOR TRIP INFORMATION:

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Fax (502) 493-9252

## FOR AIRLINE ARRANGEMENTS:

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(716) 754-9232 ext. 95018 Fax: (716) 754-2881

Email: [goministries.us@raptim.org](mailto:goministries.us@raptim.org)

Mailing address:  
6420 Inducon Drive W, Suite A Sanborn, NY 14132  
Office hours: Monday- Friday 8:30am-6:00pm ET

## FOR OPTIONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE:

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Insurance Services of America  
1757 E. Baseline Rd. #126  
Gilbert, AZ 85233

International Assurance  
[https://www.azimuthrisk.com/aquote\\_assurance.php?reference\\_id=91f036ef](https://www.azimuthrisk.com/aquote_assurance.php?reference_id=91f036ef)

## FOR VACCINATION INFORMATION:

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Center for Disease Control [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

# YOUR 2017-2018 MISSION TEAM TRIP APPLICATION

In preparation for your trip, please fill out the information below, then review and sign the Team Leader Covenant on page 8. Please photocopy both pages and return to GO Ministries either by fax (502) 493-9252 or mail to GO Ministries stateside office.

**\*NOTE: We will officially reserve the week you would like to plan your trip only when we have received this form, the signed covenant on page 6 and the \$1,000 non-refundable deposit.**

**Your Desired Trip Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Ministry Partner:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Leader:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Leader may be contacted using the following information:**

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home#:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work#:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell#:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Main focus of trip (please see page 15 for ministry project descriptions):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where we desire to serve: (see page 9 for a description of each area)**

- Santiago, Dominican Republic (fly into Santiago)
- Hato del Yaque, Dominican Republic (fly into Santiago)
- Batey 9, Dominican Republic (fly into Santo Domingo)

## **Focused Areas of Ministry**

Please review pages 19-24 and select up to TWO focuses for your team. In addition to your focus, teams will have opportunity to serve lunch at one of our nutrition centers. Teams in Santiago and Hato del Yaque will visit our GO School, GO Seminary of the Americas, and Leadership Development Complex.

- GO Building and Service projects
- GO Medical Outreach
- GO Kingdom Kids
- GO Sports Outreach
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

# COVENANT BETWEEN GO MINISTRIES, INC. &

Please initial each of the following, sign, date, and return this Covenant along with your Mission Trip Application (page 5) and your non-refundable \$1000 deposit to reserve your team date to the GO Ministries stateside office.

- \_\_\_\_\_ • We express this agreement in writing to clearly articulate our intentions and desires for a successful mission trip.
- \_\_\_\_\_ • From the moment a trip is considered to after the trip is completed we will surround it in prayer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ • We understand that a team size is a minimum of 10 people. If we fail to recruit 10 people we may be asked to reschedule at a later time when we are able to recruit the minimum.
- \_\_\_\_\_ • Acknowledging that our team will be in a different culture where some common USA behaviors or customs may not apply or may be offensive to the Dominican or Haitian people, we commit to be adaptable, patient, pleasant, and at all times exemplify a Christ-like attitude.
- \_\_\_\_\_ • We agree to the following guidelines to have funds submitted to GO Ministries:  
(Please see page 13 for a complete financial breakdown.)
  1. 60 days after commitment to trip: \$1000 non-refundable deposit due to reserve date.
  2. 3 weeks before trip: all other trip expenses must be received.
- \_\_\_\_\_ • We understand that we will be responsible for contacting RAPTIM Travel (the recommended Travel Agency) to book airline tickets for our group. We are responsible for booking flights with the agency, making payment arrangements, and supplying the agency with names and appropriate information for each traveler. We understand the travel agent may not book tickets prior to receiving our deposit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ • If we decide to use a travel agent outside of the GO Ministries recommended agency, we agree to have our itineraries approved by GO Ministries prior to booking any flights.
- \_\_\_\_\_ • Due to heightened security measures and international travel restrictions we understand that it is imperative that our team arrive at the airport at least two hours early.
- \_\_\_\_\_ • We understand that all funds sent in to GO Ministries are tax deductible and cannot be returned.
- \_\_\_\_\_ • We understand that our team is responsible to bring personal money to pay for the \$10 Tourist Card when entering the DR, and any travel incidentals (meals in the airport, transportation to airport in the States, emergency lodging, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Team Leader Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Official Church/Organization Leader Signature  
(Cannot be Team Leader)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# GO MINISTRY HUBS

We currently have four Ministry Hubs on the island of Hispaniola. Your team will be staying and working in one of these areas for the majority of your time here.



**SANTIAGO, DR** is the second largest city in the Dominican Republic. The community of Hoya del Caimito in Santiago, where the ministry began, serves as the main Hub. It is home to four of our main dormitories, where we host the majority of our teams. Also located in Hoya del Caimito is the GO Kids Christian School, GO Medical Clinic and the court for the GO Sports Basketball Academy. The current medical clinic is open Monday through Friday providing medical care to those in need. A larger, state of the art clinic is currently under construction, just a block away. The Seminary of the Americas is located in the neighboring community of Las Damas. Fifteen minutes away from Hoya del Caimito is the land for our Leadership Development Complex. Currently, this is the location for the GO Sports Baseball Academy and is the site where leaders of the future will be trained in many different areas - Sports, Discipleship, Seminary, Vocational & Kingdom Business Training. There are also seven nutrition centers located in and around the city of Santiago that serve lunch to children in the community 6 days a week. You will have the opportunity to visit each area of ministry, along with at least one of the nutrition centers in the following communities:

- Los Perez
- Hoya de Bartola
- Los Guandules
- Brisas de Ocampo
- Santa Lucia (La Mosca)
- Sabaneta de Yasica (mountains)
- San Marcos (Puerto Plata area)

**HATO DEL YAQUE, DR** is a poor community outside of Santiago. The people in Hato del Yaque face many problems including alcohol and drug addictions, prostitution and teen pregnancies. The church in Hato del Yaque has a dorm for visiting teams, basketball court where the community can come and connect, as well as a nutrition center that serves lunch to kids six days a week.

**BATEY NUEVE & CUCHILLO, DR** are located in the southwestern part of the country. These sugarcane villages are home to thousands of impoverished people. We support the work of pastors William Decena & Francisco Feliz. The Ministry Hub in Batey Nueve consists of a Church, Dormitory & Nutrition Center. There is also a Nutrition Center in Batey Cuchillo.

**PHAETON, HAITI** was once a vibrant and thriving community on the Northern Coast of Haiti. It was known for being the largest rope producer in the New World, but has since been deserted, leaving this rural community to depend on the minimal fishing trade for survival. We have a Church, Nutrition Center and Dormitory for visiting teams.

# TEAM LEADER RESOURCE CENTER

We want you to have an incredible mission adventure from start to finish.

We have created a Resource Center rich with material including handouts and videos designed specifically for our mission teams. Everything is setup to coincide with your team meetings. We recommend that you have at least five meetings with your team members to prepare everyone for the trip.

- **Getting Started – Team Interest Meeting** – Meet with potential team members to explain how GO Ministries partners with Local Leaders to Redeem, Renew & Restore.
- **Team Meeting #1 – Introduction to Missions** – This meeting gives an overview of missions. The team member guide is included as well as information to help the team to begin raising funds for your trip.
- **Team Meeting #2 – Choosing a Focus** – Your team can start to discuss the areas of ministry that you would like to participate in during your time on the island of Hispaniola. Please see pages 19-24 to read more about the focused areas of ministry your team can choose.
- **Team Meeting #3 – Team Retreat** – Set a time for team bonding as well as learning what it means to minister in a cross cultural setting.
- **Final Meeting/Packing Party** – Go over last minute details for the trip. Many teams use this meeting to pack suitcases with donated sports, or medical supplies to use during the week.

For full details and resources please visit the Team Leader Resource Center:

<http://gomin.org/mission-trips/team-leader-resources/>



# MOVING FORWARD...

## 1. Develop a Team

We encourage people who are interested in going on a mission trip to form a team either from your church, organization, school, or family and friends. While 10 people is the minimum team size, we challenge our teams to try to recruit at least 20 people. We can facilitate up to 100 people.

## 2. Lock in your Date

GO Ministries hosts teams in the Dominican Republic year round. Trips are 8 days long - summer trips go from Tuesday to Tuesday, winter, spring, fall trips are Saturday to Saturday. If you have not already set dates for the trip, please contact our Stateside Administrator of Teams at [goteams@gomin.org](mailto:goteams@gomin.org), to book your date. Your date will be officially reserved once we have received your **Trip Application** (Page 7) **Signed Covenant** (Page 8) and **\$1,000 non-refundable deposit**.

## 3. Choose a Co-Team Leader

As the team leader you serve as the main contact with our GO Ministries staff to plan and prepare your team for your week of service. Our team leaders are responsible for:

- Helping to recruit the team
- Lead Team meetings
- Make airfare travel arrangements
- Encourage the team in Fundraising efforts
- Plan the GO Kingdom Kids Ministry Lesson & Activities (if applicable)
- Send in all forms by the deadlines (i.e. application, covenant, roster, medical & general releases) and payments to the GO Ministries office
- Act as the spiritual leader for the team

If you would like select a Co-Leader to assist you in any of these tasks please let your team coordinator know so that they can be sure to connect with the appropriate people.



#### **4. Encourage Your Team to Fundraise**

The trip fee per person is \$950 plus the cost of airfare. Please refer to pages 13 - 14 of this guide to get a detailed explanation of the fees. We also have additional information on fundraising ideas on pages 33 - 34, that you can share with you team.

#### **5. Choose a Focused Area of Ministry**

Your team will have the opportunity to choose from the different Focused Areas of Ministry. You can find more detailed information about each Focused Area of Ministry on pages 19-24. Once your team has determined which Focused Area of Ministry you would like to pursue, you can indicate that on your Team application. Your team coordinator will discuss this further with you as you begin the planning process.

#### **6. Begin Making Flight Arrangements**

We encourage you to begin making flight arrangements as soon as possible to ensure availability of seats and best prices for your airfare. All flights will be in and out of Santiago (except for teams working in the Bateys, which will arrive and depart from Santo Domingo.)

We have a travel agency, Raptim that works with our teams. Please be sure to mention that you are traveling with GO Ministries.

E-mail: [goministries.us@raptim.org](mailto:goministries.us@raptim.org)

Phone: 1-888-472-7846

If you would like to use your own travel agent or book your own flights, we ask that you let us review your flight itinerary prior to booking.

#### **7. Remind your team of special preparations for their trip**

- **PASSPORTS**

Each team member will need to have a valid passport to travel to the Dominican. It is important that each team member check their current passport to make sure it is not expired and will not expire within 6 months from their date of return. The following link will assist your team with all their passport information needs (i.e. renewal or applying for a new passport.)

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports/forms.html>

- **IMMUNIZATIONS**

GO Ministries highly recommends up-to-date Tetanus/Diphtheria vaccinations for all team members. The Center for Disease Control also recommends the following: Hepatitis A&B, Typhoid, Malaria RX, and Travelers Diarrhea RX. Recommended vaccinations may change as conditions change in various areas. Please see [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) for current updates.

- **INSURANCE**

Typically, U.S. insurance is not valid internationally. We highly recommend that each team member purchase short term coverage. Insurance Services of America is a company that our teams have used in the past. You can share the following link with your team to purchase travel insurance. [https://www.azimuthrisk.com/aquote\\_assurance.php?reference\\_id=91f036ef](https://www.azimuthrisk.com/aquote_assurance.php?reference_id=91f036ef)

- **TEAM LEADER RESOURCE CENTER**

We have a Team Leader Resource Guide on our website to help you plan the meetings with your team. These resources include meeting agendas, handouts and videos for you to watch together. You can access these resources here: <http://gomin.org/mission-trips/team-leader-resources/>

# MISSION TRIP COSTS

GO Ministries works diligently to offer team members an incredible, affordable and sustainable cross cultural experience to empower our local leaders to make a difference across the island. Below reflects the costs for your trip and ongoing ministry.

Please have team members ask their donors to write and send checks to your church or non-profit organization. Then have your church or organization make and send ONE CHECK to GO Ministries for your trip costs and one check to the travel agent for your airfare.

## **COST PER PERSON**

\$950 + airfare (averages between \$550-\$900).

## **COST BREAKDOWN**

\$300 Food & Lodging

\$100 Transportation in the DR/Haiti

\$100 Leadership

\$100 Field Services

\$300 Field Ministry (See explanation below)

\$50 Day trip to the Beach (optional overnight to the beach is an additional \$50.) See pages 14 & 17 for additional information.

## **FIELD MINISTRY**

\$100 Mercy Ministry: From rushing a Haitian pastor injured in a motorcycle accident from Haiti to the Dominican Republic to get life saving treatment for his wounds, to helping assist a member of our construction team cover the costs of cancer treatment for his mother, your \$100 allows GO Ministries to respond quickly and effectively to mercy needs as they occur throughout the island on a daily basis.

\$200 Ministry Advancement: When your team arrives on the island they are entering a ministry that is on the move in a variety of ways and places. Your team is serving alongside passionate, local Christian leaders who are pouring their lives out for Jesus in their communities, from the nutrition center in Hoya de Bartola, to churches serving the exploited sugar cane cutters in the Bateys. Your \$200 leaves their collective ministries better than you found them by providing for crucial resources in churches, nutrition centers, clinics, schools and dormitories.

# COST BREAKDOWN SHEET

## ADDITIONAL COSTS

- **\$50 Optional Overnight Trip to the Beach**  
A day trip to the beach is included in the cost of your trip. Teams staying in Santiago or Hato del Yaque have the option of staying overnight at an all-inclusive beach resort in Sosua. Please let your Team Coordinator know if you are interested in staying overnight at the beach.
- **Batey Teams: \$50 Overnight Trip to the Beach**  
There is an additional \$50 fee for teams who will be working in the Bateys to cover the cost of the overnight stay at the all-inclusive beach resort in Santo Domingo.
- **\$10 DR Tourist Card (cash on hand, not in overall cost)**  
Each individual must have \$10 American cash to come in the country. We suggest each team member have a \$10 bill ready.
- **\$ Other - Each team member is responsible for his/her immunization costs, fees to obtain a passport, transportation to the airport in the U.S., meals in the airport, and any emergency incidentals.** On the field, team members will only need additional money for snacks and souvenirs.

## PAYMENT CALENDAR

Mark your dates below

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$1,000 non-refundable deposit, Mission Trip App. & Team Leader Covenant**  
(requested trip date will only be reserved upon receipt of deposit 60 days after you request your date)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Call RAPTIM Travel to begin making travel arrangements (contact information can be found on page 6).**  
(at least 6 months in advance of travel dates)

\_\_\_\_\_ **All other costs due**  
(four weeks before your trip)

# TEAM LEADER TIMELINE

## Fill in Dates

- \_\_\_\_\_ (ASAP/6-8 months advance) Reserve your date: email our Team Administrator at [goteams@gomin.org](mailto:goteams@gomin.org)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Send \$1,000 non-refundable Deposit, Mission Trip Application, and Team Leader Covenant to GO Ministries (Must be received within 60 days of booking date)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Begin to pray about trip and leadership
- \_\_\_\_\_ Post date of trip and Team Interest Meeting in church bulletin, send out emails, hand out flyers, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Call RAPTIM Travel, GO approved travel agent to discuss travel options and fares. (If you are using a travel agent outside of GO Ministries approval, please submit itineraries for approval prior to booking)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Host a Team Interest Meeting
- Show GO video Redeem Renew Restore
  - Have applications ready
  - Explain basics of trip
  - Set deadline for deposits and applications
- \_\_\_\_\_ Deadline for deposits and applications to be in to Team Leader
- \_\_\_\_\_ Figure out how much it will cost per person for your trip (once you know the airfare)
- \_\_\_\_\_ First Team Meeting
- Pray
  - Introduce team members
  - Discuss why we do missions (Show Video – Why Mission)
  - Discuss fundraising options, set a deadline for team members to have their letters out
  - Set a deadline (at least 3 months before your trip) for everyone to apply for passports, to have immunizations updated, and to have parental consent form notarized and signed by both parents (if bringing a youth team)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Airfare deposit due to Raptim
- \_\_\_\_\_ Second Team Meeting
- Pray
  - Show Video – What does Redeem, Renew, Restore mean?
  - Discuss logistics of trip (include flight schedules, packing list, delegate responsibilities)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Team Retreat
- Worship
  - Team Building Activities
  - Expectations – Have team write out and discuss
  - Cross Cultural Communication
  - Show Videos Cross Cultural Communications

- Review packing list
  - Discuss do's & don't of trip
  - Team Covenant
  - Prayer partners
  - Practice music, drama, or sports
  - Discuss the projects you will be working on while in the field
  - Explain debriefing & re-entry back to the States

\_\_\_\_\_ Send final balance to Raptim

\_\_\_\_\_ 4 weeks before departure – Turn in all trip fees & paperwork (i.e. Roster, Medical & Indemnification Release Forms) to the GO Ministries office in Louisville.

\_\_\_\_\_ Last Meeting – Packing Party

- Prayer
- Have copy of each team members' passport and medical form
- Show Video – What to Expect
- Go over packing guidelines & airport procedures
- Collect & pack any additional donated items. Give to team members to check as their second bag.
- Invite family to come & have prayer for send-off

\_\_\_\_\_ (1-2 weeks after return) Picture Party

- Invite family, friends & Supporters
- Debrief

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 week after return) Follow-up

- Arrange speaking engagements at your church or classes regarding your trip, show pictures or powerpoint
- Send thank you notes to all supporters





# WHAT TO EXPECT

## **WHAT A TRIP LOOKS LIKE**

Your Team Coordinator will be in frequent contact with you helping prepare for your trip. Most GO Ministries mission trips last for 8 days, from Tuesday to Tuesday in the summer and Saturday to Saturday in the Winter, Spring and Fall. You will spend the first day traveling to Santiago, the second largest city in the Dominican Republic or to Santo Domingo for teams working in the Bateys.

## **GO STAFF IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Our North American missionaries and Dominican Local Leaders will meet you at the airport. They will serve as your facilitators for the remainder of the week.

## **TRAVEL**

Your team will travel via the GO Ministries 26-passenger bus or one of our 15-passenger vans.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Each of our dorms in all of our hubs, have a separate sleeping area for men and women. There are bunkbeds with mattresses and indoor plumbing. There is a common eating area where your team will share meals together.

## **FOOD**

Three hot meals will be provided each day to team members. Local leaders will prepare the meals complete with fresh Dominican fruit. The meals are buffet style and you can expect an array of delicious chicken, rice, beans, bread, and fruits. All food is prepared with purified water and bottled water will be available in the dormitory, at the work site, and at all meals. Small corner stores sell bottled soft drinks and snacks as well.

## **MINISTRY ACTIVITIES**

You will work with your team coordinator to determine the schedule of your week based on the Focused Area of Ministry that you choose. Santiago-based teams will also have opportunities to visit four of our major areas of ministry, where you will learn how you can get involved and pray for the future of this growing ministry. These include:

- GO Kids School (El Colegio Isaias Emmanuel)
- GO Medical Center – Current location and future site
- GO Seminary of the Americas
- GO Leadership Development Complex

## **CHURCH SERVICES**

As a part of your week, your team will have the opportunity to experience the Dominican or Haitian Culture through a church service. If someone from your team would like to teach or if you have worship music prepared, please let us know in advance.

## **SANTIAGO TEAMS BEACH DAY/ OPTIONAL OVERNIGHT TRIP**

Before you leave, you will have the opportunity to enjoy God's creation at the beach. The purpose of this time is to be able to step away from the ministry you have been doing, so that you are able to listen to what God wants you to learn from your time here. It is important that your team processes all that they have seen and experienced before heading back to the States. There are two options:

- Beach Day – The team will leave early in the morning and travel 1.5-2 hours to the northern Coast town of Sosua to enjoy the beach and shopping. Lunch is provided at the beach.
- Overnight Stay at the Resort – You will leave after Church on Sunday (for summer teams) or Thursday morning (for winter, spring & fall teams) and travel 1-1.5 hours to Puerto Plata. You will stay at an all-inclusive beach resort. All meals are included. There is an additional \$50 fee per person for this option.

## **DEVOTION**

You and your team members will receive a copy of the GO devotion when they arrive at the dorm. There is time set aside each morning for you to go through the devotion, led by a member of the GO Staff.

## **TRANSLATORS**

Translators will be available for your team.

## **PHONE CALLS/INTERNET**

The emergency phone numbers are 1-829-404-6724 or 1-849-857-0949. **Emergencies only please!** We desire for your trip to be a time where the team can “unplug” so that they can focus on what God has in store for you. However, your team members can purchase international coverage if they choose to. We do ask that they limit their phone usage to when you are in the dorm. Internet is not accessible for our team members in the dorms.

## **TEAM TRACKER**

Upon your arrival to the Dominican Republic, we will snap a photo of your team and post it onto the GO website and social media outlets to notify friends and family that your team has arrived safely. Please allow up to 24 hours for this to be uploaded to the website.

<http://gomin.org/ministry/teamtracker/>

## **MEDICAL TREATMENT**

If there is a need for medical treatment, we will see to it that you get the best care available. Being in the second largest city of nearly a million people is ideal because there are several medical facilities nearby. You will be responsible for all medical costs, but usually they are very small in comparison to the USA. We encourage all team members to purchase short term coverage. Please refer to page 10 of this guide for more information on how to purchase this insurance.

## **MONEY**

We encourage team members to bring extra spending money for souvenirs or snacks from the convenience store. You will have the opportunity to purchase souvenirs at the beach such as clothing, Dominican jewelry, paintings, sculptures, and pottery or enjoy going snorkeling (\$5-10). Please bring cash only, no traveler’s checks or credit cards.

## **24 HOURS PRIOR TO TRIP CONFIRM FLIGHT WITH AIRLINES**

### **DEPARTURE DAY**

Make sure you have a copy of everyone’s passport, health forms, & have all airline tickets before heading to the airport. Encourage your team to purchase a travel pouch for around their neck to keep passport, ID and money. Have them choose a place to always keep their boarding passes and always return them to the same place. The team should stay together through all transfers. Pray before you leave your local airport as a team. The team leader should always be the last one through in case there are any problems.

### **ARRIVE IN THE D.R.**

If there are any problems entering the country, keep a cool head and pray! Remember your example sets the tone for the team. Remind your team not to let anyone help them with their luggage at the airport because we will have to tip each person. If customs has any questions, tell them the things you are bringing are for the church and will be free to the community.

# FOCUSED AREAS OF MINISTRY

The following pages overview our different Focused Areas of Ministry. Once you have chosen the focus for the week, your Team Coordinator will be in contact with you to provide further details on what your week will entail and any supplies you will need to bring to ensure a productive and meaningful time of ministry.



## GO BUILDING AND SERVICE PROJECTS

Teams have the opportunity to serve in this area for 1, 2 or 3 days. Please let your team coordinator know your desire.

**Building Projects-** The three main building projects that teams are currently working on are:

- GO Medical Center
- Central Church Expansion
- Leadership Development Complex

Your team can partner with the ministry to further the progress of these projects. Please let your team coordinator know if you have a preference as to which project to work on. We will do our best to accommodate your request.

**Service Projects-** The vision of GO is to empower local leaders to serve in their own culture and community. Your team can choose to come alongside these local leaders to reach out and bless the members of the neighborhoods in which they live and work. Projects include painting houses and schools, pouring concrete floors in houses, and picking up trash as well as other specific areas that local leaders have identified as a need. If you partner with a local leader it is our desire that you spend your time serving in their community.

# GO MEDICAL

In the Dominican Republic poor and sporadic funding of public hospitals makes healthcare difficult for the majority of people to obtain. These hospitals have talented staff, however, often fail to have adequate supplies for everyday operations. Any illness creates a difficult situation; it's made worse if you happen to be sick and among the poor.

Medical professionals have a unique opportunity to share their talents by assisting the GO Medical Team through remote medical clinics across the island. Non-medical team members can also serve by signing people in, handing out assigned medications, and assisting the medical professionals. We recommend you recruit between 10-12 team members with a minimum of 3-5 medical professionals (Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, nurses...etc.)

## **What it looks like:**

Each medical mission team is unique, however most medical clinics will be facilitated in a church or school in the community that you are serving in. Your Team will work alongside of our local leaders and North American medical team. The clinic will be 3 or 4 days and will be composed of a triage station, area to be seen by a medical provider and a pharmacy station. Some common illnesses you will encounter in the Dominican Republic are: parasites, malnutrition, the common cold, various infections, hypertension, diabetes and dental issues.

## **Medications:**

Medical teams will need to raise the funds for GO to purchase the medication for your clinic in the Dominican Republic. The average cost is \$3,000. There are a few items that cannot be purchased in the DR and the GO Medical Team will provide you with a list of over-the-counter (OTC) medications to bring with you.



# GO KINGDOM KIDS

We are thrilled for the opportunity your team will have to show Christ's love to children in a community in which a GO pastor is at work. We do Childrens Ministry to encourage kids in the community towards a relationship with Christ and also to draw attention to the local church so families can become more consistent in their faith development. Whether you are in the mountains, in the city, or in rural areas, your team can have a big part in extending Christ's love through teaching God's Word, worshipping in song and prayer, and engaging with children through meaningful activities. We have several different ways you can engage in Kingdom Kids. No matter which option(s) you choose our team of coordinators are excited to walk with you as you prepare for ministry.

## KINGDOM KIDS OPTIONS:

1. **Kids Festival** This is fun and playful time to love on the kids! Typically a team will choose to do a Kids Festival in the morning and return in the afternoon for a Kids Club in the same community! To ensure a fun festival time for the kids we suggest the following items:

- Bubbles and stickers
- Sidewalk Chalk (not appropriate for Batey or Haiti teams)
- 2-3 Jump Ropes
- 2-3 wiffle balls and bats (both short and long bats)
- Variety of inflatable balls and nerf footballs
- 2-3 frisbees
- Crayons, markers, and construction paper

Suggestions to create "festival" feel: parachutes, face painting, buckets (for Bozo bucket toss) and other festival type games!



2. **Kids Club** This would include a Bible lesson, songs, and activities that you will do in 1-3 different GO communities. The Bible lesson(s) will be provided by your Team Coordinator. It is important to begin preparing 4-6 months prior to your trip. You will be asked to bring the needed supplies with you. (If you have a Bible lesson that you would like to use, it needs to be approved by your Team Coordinator.)

**Breakdown of Kids Club Time:**

Bubbles and stickers

- Worship Kids Songs (usually 3-4 songs)
  - Bible Story (usually 10-15 minutes) Someone from your team can tell the story (we have translators available or if you have a team member that is comfortable reading in Spanish, that is great too!) We strongly encourage the story be told through a skit, puppets, or other visuals.
  - Craft Time (15-20 minutes) depending on the craft
  - Closing (5-10 minutes) This could consist of one song, sharing a key Bible verse (and having the kids repeat it and maybe say it in small groups), and closing in prayer.
  - Large Group Activity (optional) (15-20 mins) Depending on the space and time you have, it may be a good option to have some outside time to play. If you already have supplies for a Kids Festival, you can bring a few of those items (balls, bats, chalk, frisbees, big parachute) to use during this time.
3. **Kids Camp (Traditional VBS Curriculum)** Just like in the States, Kids Camp is a high energy, fun, and lively program to engage the same group of kids for several continuous days, with a message to choose and follow Jesus! When you choose this option, Kids Camp will be your primary focus for your week and will likely be held each afternoon from 3-5pm in the same community for 3-4 days ending with an evening outreach activity for kids to attend along with their parents. We will provide the information for the set VBS curriculum to use for 3-4 days in the same community. You will need to purchase and bring the curriculum (we will provide the Spanish version) and needed items/supplies with you. You will want to begin preparing 6-7 months prior to your trip. In an effort to make your ministry time as impactful as possible, Kids Camps are only hosted in summer months - when kids are not in school.

# GO SPORTS

## SPORTS CLINICS

Sports Clinics are an incredible way to love and encourage young men and women. We have led baseball, basketball, soccer, football, and volleyball clinics over the years. We have over 300 kids who are regularly a part of our GO Sports academy (baseball and basketball) and 11 full time coaches who lead, train, and disciple them throughout the year. In addition to our GO Sports program, there are a number of communities within GO where sports are being utilized for ministry. We love when teams come down to partner with our coaches and communities to help train and disciple kids across the island!

In order to accomplish a successful sports clinic, we like to partner with groups of athletes and coaches who are passionate about a particular sport and are interested in engaging the community alongside of our Dominican and Haitian Sports Coaches.

## WHAT A TYPICAL SPORTS CLINIC LOOKS LIKE

- 8:00 am Breakfast and Devotional time for the team
- 9:00- 9:30 am Drive to site and sports clinic begins
- 9:30 am Drills/instruction/competitions/group devotional in the morning until noon
- 12:00 pm Lunch/Siesta
- 2:00-5:00 pm Formal games

We encourage the team to bring down a few items that are needed to run a quality clinic. Some items will also be used for students in our GO Sports Academy who need newer equipment. If you are asked about items in customs, tell them everything is for the church, and will be donated to the community.

### **Basketball**

- Basketballs
- Whistles
- Stopwatches
- Nets
- Needles/pumps to blow up basketballs
- Cones
- Shoes (new or slightly used if possible)

### **Soccer**

- Balls
- Cones
- Cleats
- Nets
- Shin guards
- Needles/pumps for balls

### **Baseball**

- Baseballs
- Bats
- Fungo Bats
- Gloves
- Catchers Gloves
- Cleats (new or slightly used)
- Catcher's equipment
- Batting gloves
- Hitting Nets
- Batting Tees (professional grade)

### **Volleyball**

- Volleyballs
- Nets\*
- Needles/pumps for balls

## **COMMUNITY CAMPS**

GO Ministries has a few communities who are starting to host full-time sports ministry. If you have a team with participants who are either professionals, coaches, and/or play on a college or high school athletic team, GO Sports Community Camps could be a good option for you! We are always eager for groups to use their love of the game to connect and help build the kingdom of God in one of our GO Communities. In order to set up a successful Sports Community Camp, we ask that at least 25% of your group either coaches or plays the sport you wish to help lead.

The purpose of GO Sports Community Camps is to come alongside the local leader in various communities to encourage, support, and assist in growing their program for the week your group serves with us. Some sports that we have hosted in these Community Camps are Baseball, Volleyball, Basketball, and Soccer.

Below is a list of items that we ask for you to bring with you to enrich this experience for both you and the kids. The items you bring will depend on the type of camp your group will be helping run. Again, if questions arise in customs, say that everything is to be donated through the church.

### **Baseball**

- 2-3 Rubber base sets
- 10 wiffle balls
- 3-5 wiffle ball or sturdy plastic bats (please try to get longer and shorter bats so kids of all ages can play.)
- 10-15 major league baseballs

### **Basketball**

- 5-7 Outdoor Basketballs
- 2 Higher Quality Basketballs
- Basketball pumps
- 2 Mesh equipment bags
- Plastic cones

### **Volleyball**

- 8-10 Volleyballs
- 10-14 sets of knee pads
- Volleyball net

### **Soccer**

- 8-10 Soccer balls
- 2 sets of small cones
- 10-14 sets of shin guards
- 2 portable small soccer nets

\*A large duffel bag may be most useful in transporting these items to the DR!







## **TEAM MEMBER GUIDE**

The following pages are to be used as an application for anyone who wishes to be a part of your team. Simply print out or copy the following pages, staple them together and pass them out during your first introduction meeting. Please note, on the cover page you will need to fill out your organization's name, deadline you wish the application to be returned and your organization's contact information. Your Team Coordinator will send you a team roster six weeks prior to your arrival on the island. It is very important that the roster is completed and returned to your Team Coordinator three weeks prior to your arrival.

- The following forms are included in the Team Member's Application:
- Team Member Application (for your use)
- Considerations Before Taking a Trip (for your use)
- Medical Release Forms: **Please bring a copy of these with you to the D.R. in an envelope**
- Release and Indemnification Agreement: **Please send copies to the GO Ministries Stateside Office, PRIOR to your departure for your mission trip.**



**GO MINISTRIES**

11501 Plantside Drive, Suite 14  
Louisville, KY 40299  
(502) 493-9846 Fax (502) 493-9252  
[www.gomin.org](http://www.gomin.org)

# CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE TAKING A MISSION TRIP

Fundraising is a key part of your mission experience. While it obviously helps with your financial efforts to go on a trip, it also involves others in your experience by giving them an opportunity to participate. Please don't let money concerns keep you from going on a mission trip, God is always looking for an opportunity to show you how big He is!

Detailed information regarding your fundraising efforts will be available for your use.

## Passport

- A passport is required to travel to the Dominican Republic. The cost of a passport is not included in the price of your trip. Apply now!
- Passport services and information is available: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports/forms.html>

## Immunizations

- GO Ministries requires up-to-date Tetanus/Diphtheria vaccinations for all trips. The cost of immunizations is not included in your trip costs.
- While GO only requires Tetanus vaccinations, the Center for Disease Control also recommends the following: Hepatitis A&B, Typhoid, Malaria RX, and Travelers Diarrhea RX - please see [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) for current updates.



Dominican Republic  
GO Ministries Mission Trip Application

Please enclose a non-refundable deposit of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL INFORMATION:**

Legal Name (as it appears on passport): \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

- Male
- Female

**MARITAL STATUS:**

- S
- M
- D
- W

Do you have a criminal record? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**T-SHIRT SIZE:**

- S
- M
- L
- XL
- XXL

Ages of children (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

If under 18 years of age -  
Name(s) of parent(s) or guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**OCCUPATION**

Please describe your present employment and any pertinent talents you have regarding work experience related to missions.

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**LANGUAGE**

Knowing the Spanish language is not required, however, please list if you have any training in the Spanish language.

Number of Years \_\_\_\_\_ Fluency \_\_\_\_\_

**SKILLS & TALENTS**

Please check any skills or talents you may have. For areas you are professional in, please write PROF.

**CONSTRUCTION**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Carpentry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Painting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Electrical
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plumbing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**BUSINESS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Computers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Accounting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**SPORTS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Basketball
- \_\_\_\_\_ Baseball
- \_\_\_\_\_ Soccer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Softball
- \_\_\_\_\_ Position(s) Coaching

**MUSIC**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Vocal
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER PERFORMANCE**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Drama
- \_\_\_\_\_ Clowning
- \_\_\_\_\_ Puppetry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

**MEDICAL**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Nursing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Physician
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dental
- \_\_\_\_\_ E.M.T.
- \_\_\_\_\_ C.P.R.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Therapy
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**MINISTRY EXPERIENCE**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Teaching Ages \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ VBS / Children’s Ministry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Crafts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Ministry

## GO MINISTRIES MISSION TRIP - Medical Information & Release

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Insurance Provider: \_\_\_\_\_

ID #: \_\_\_\_\_ Group #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Primary Physician: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Local Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check if you suffer from any of the following medical conditions:*

<input type="checkbox"/> Hypertension	<input type="checkbox"/> Hypoglycemia	<input type="checkbox"/> Bleeding Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Heart Disease
<input type="checkbox"/> Seizures	<input type="checkbox"/> Insect Allergies	<input type="checkbox"/> Asthma	<input type="checkbox"/> Chronic Anxiety
<input type="checkbox"/> Arthritis	<input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/> Depression	<input type="checkbox"/> Glaucoma
<input type="checkbox"/> Migraines			

Physical limitations (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

List any medications (prescriptions or OTC) taken on a regular basis: \_\_\_\_\_

List Medical & Food Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Blood Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Have you had any surgery in the past three years? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

*In an emergency, I give my permission to a licensed physician to hospitalize or anesthetize me, or perform surgery on me. I understand that every effort will be made to inform my emergency contact before these actions are taken.*

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 18)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship to Participant:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Release and Indemnification Agreement

In consideration of the undersigned's participation in a mission trip facilitated by GO Ministries, Inc. of Jefferson County, Kentucky, Inc. (the "Organization") and as an inducement to facilitate the mission trip and permit the undersigned's participation therein, the individual, (the "undersigned") agrees as follows:

The undersigned hereby fully and forever releases and waives and agrees not to cause to be brought any and all claims, demands, actions, or causes of action of every possible kind and nature whatsoever the undersigned might assert, including, without limitation, claims for personal injury, wrongful death, or property damage, whether or not absolute, known or unknown, or otherwise against the Ministry or any of its Directors, officers, employees, agents or volunteers (collectively referred to herein as the "Ministry") by reason of, arising out of or relating to the undersigned's participation in a mission trip.

The undersigned further agrees to indemnify, defend and hold the Ministry harmless from damages, including, without limitation, special, incidental and consequential damages, losses or expenses suffered or paid, directly or indirectly, as a result of any and all claims, causes of actions, suits, proceedings, demands, judgments, assessments, and liabilities, including reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in litigation or otherwise, assessed, incurred or sustained by or against the Ministry by reason of, arising out of or relating to the undersigned's participation in a mission trip.

The undersigned further agrees that this Release and Indemnification Agreement (the "Agreement") is binding upon the undersigned's heirs, executors, administrators, assigns and legal representatives; that this Agreement releases all successors, assigns and legal representatives of the Ministry; and that this Agreement is to be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The undersigned further agrees that the execution of this Agreement is continuing in nature; it is the undersigned's knowing and voluntary act; the undersigned does not intend to participate in the mission trip until and unless the undersigned has had full opportunity to the undersigned's satisfaction to inspect and determine the scope of the mission trip and receive all information which bear on the undersigned's decision to participate; and the undersigned is under no duress or undue influence to execute this Agreement.

The undersigned hereby grants full permission to the Organization to use any photographs, videotapes, motion pictures, recordings, or other records or documents of the mission trip and to do so without notice or compensation to the undersigned. The undersigned acknowledges that the Organization has made available applications for travel insurance and agrees that it is the undersigned's responsibility to purchase travel insurance.

The undersigned assumes responsibility for full payment of the published and announced cost of the mission trip; agrees to pay any outstanding balance upon request by the Organization; and agrees that any and all cost incurred by the undersigned during the mission trip, including, without limitation, costs due to health problems, emergencies and death, are the responsibility of the undersigned or estate of the undersigned.

The undersigned acknowledges that the undersigned has read and understands this Agreement; that the undersigned has not relied in signing this agreement on any statement, oral or otherwise, by the Organization or its officers or employees; and that it is the undersigned's intention with this Agreement to make a complete, general and unconditional release of any and all claims whatsoever against the Ministry as set forth above.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned hereby executes this Agreement on the date set forth below.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If under 18 years old, you must sign and in addition have a parent or legal guardian sign as well.

# TEAM AGREEMENT

## AS A MEMBER OF THIS TEAM I AGREE TO:

1. Remember that I am representing Jesus Christ and will model Jesus in my behavior and attitude.
2. Remember that I am a guest working at the invitation of my hosts. I will remember the missionary's prayer, "Where you lead me I will follow. What you feed me I will swallow."
3. Remember that we have come to learn as well as to teach. I'll resist the temptation to inform our hosts about "how we do things." I'll be open to learning about other people's methods and ideas.
4. Respect the host's view of Christianity. I recognize that Christianity has many faces throughout the world, and that the purpose of this trip is to experience faith lived out in a new setting.
5. Develop and maintain a servant attitude toward all Local Leaders and my teammates.
6. Respect my team leader(s) and his or her decisions.
7. Refrain from gossip.
8. Refrain from complaining. I know that travel can present numerous unexpected and undesired circumstances. Instead of whining and complaining, I'll be creative and supportive.
9. Attend all team meetings before the trip as well as any follow-up meetings.
10. Remember not to be exclusive in my relationships and interact with all members of the team.
11. Refrain from any activity that could be construed as romantic interest in a national or teammate.
12. Remember that I can be sent home if I do not adhere to this Covenant or if my Team Leader believes it is in my best interest or that of the team.
13. I will refrain from drinking alcohol during my time with GO Ministries on the mission field.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Passport
- Bible/Notebook/Pen
- Toiletries
- Towel/washcloth
- Flip Flops for shower
- Sunscreen
- Hat/Bandana
- Sunglasses
- Insect Repellent
- Work Clothes (old tshirts, etc)
- Shorts (no shorter than fingertips)
- Pants
- Casual cloths for evening activities (no tank tops please)
- Work Gloves
- Closed toe work shoes and socks
- Twin size sheets
- Pillow
- Flashlight
- Water Bottle
- Church Clothes
  - Men – Slacks & shirt with collar
  - Ladies – Conservative dress or skirt & nice shirt
- Bathing Suit (one-piece suits please)
- Camera
- Spending Money (\$50-\$100 – Please bring Cash – NO Traveler’s Checks or Credit Cards)
- Appropriate snacks (especially if you have food allergies or a special diet)

## **OPTIONAL ITEMS**

The following list contains things that many teams wish they had thought to bring.

- Imodium (or other diarrhea medicine) & laxative medicine
- Dramamine (Recommended if you get motion sickness, for the plane and also for the curvy ride across the mountains from Santiago to Puerto Plata)
- Baby powder / Gold Bond
- Aloe Vera
- Battery operated fan
- Scrubs (medical teams)

## **SAVE SPACE**

Save space in your luggage by leaving the following at home:

- Expensive jewelry
- Laptops
- A bunch of junk food
- Clothes that are not appropriate (short shorts, short dresses, strapless tank tops or dresses, spaghetti strap tank tops, low cut shirts, bikinis)



# FUNDRAISING

## PRAYER TEAM

Before you begin any type of fundraising, give it to God in prayer. We often plan, execute and then pray for the best. The plan usually fails because we forget to ask God first.

Begin your preparations for your trip by raising a prayer support base of at least ten people who will pray regularly for you during your preparation and daily for you during the actual trip.

These must be people whose prayer life you know and trust. They need to be mature Christians who will take your prayer covenant very seriously. They should not be members of your team.

Send your prayer team prayer requests during your preparations and before you leave. Include things like fatigue, your attitude, your reactions, flexibility, safety, and health. You will sense their prayer support on your trip and will be able to get through situations beyond your own strength because of their prayers.

## SUPPORT TEAM

Another common mistake in raising funds for a mission trip is believing it is only about the money. It is also about building a partnership with supporters. Paul says, **“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”** Philippians 1:3-5

When someone agrees to support you, include them in your mission experience. Remember to send a thank you card before the trip and send a letter about your trip afterwards to follow-up.

## LETTER WRITING

We have found that the best way for raising funds for a trip is through letter writing. In order to do that, we often must push aside our pride and let others in to help us- remembering that they will become a part of your trip through supporting you. **\*Remember that people give to missions when they feel informed, when they believe their gift will change lives, when they feel like they are an important part of the trip and when they sense your enthusiasm about it.**

Make a list of family members, friends, and church members who may be interested in supporting you.

Write a letter including:

- What your trip entails
- Explain the purpose of your trip
- Give details of how God has led you to this trip
- Explain why you chose to participate
- Tell the reader of planned activities
- Explain the need
- Ask the reader for specific actions based on the need

# SAMPLE FUNDRAISING LETTER

## Following is an example of a letter that was successful:

Dear friends and family,

I hope this letter finds you well! I have some exciting news to share with you. I have an amazing opportunity to work alongside of GO Ministries in the Dominican Republic and Haiti (the island of Hispaniola) during the dates of: \_\_\_\_\_. This will be my \_\_\_\_\_ year working side-by side with the Local Leaders developing churches, ministries, and working with children.

The organization I am partnering with is a Christian Non-Profit organization called GO Ministries. GO is dedicated to the vision of Redeeming People, Renewing Communities and Restoring Creation through working alongside of Local Leaders creating opportunities for Partnership and Mutual Transformation. I will not come back unchanged and I will be a part of advancing ministry for the Gospel!

While I am there we will be working alongside Local Leaders to build a (church/nutrition center/school/medical complex). We will also have the opportunity to assist serving lunch in one of the Nutrition Centers GO operates daily. Each center serves lunch to 80-120 kids, six days a week and this will likely be the only meal those kids will receive. GO has over 11 Nutrition Centers across the island. We will also be providing Spiritual Development through several Children's Ministry Programs in impoverished communities that GO works in.

I am writing this letter to you in hopes of us partnering together to reach people in the DR and Haiti and to further the Kingdom! I would like to ask you to prayerfully consider partnering with me in these two ways:

1. Pray for me and for our team and for the people of the Dominican Republic and Haiti to receive the Gospel and for our work to be a blessing to those we are in contact with. Please pray for the Local Leaders of GO Ministries and all of the full-time missionaries working on the field. Prayer is the foundation of our mission!
2. I would also like to ask you to consider financially supporting me on my trip. I need to raise \$ \_\_\_\_\_. This cost includes all travel expenses, food, lodging and helps with the cost of the ministry I will be a part of once I arrive on the field. I must submit final payment by \_\_\_\_\_. If you would like to support me, please send in a check to (name of Church) and please write my name in the memo line with "DR Mission Trip".

I would love to keep you updated on details of the trip and the ministry happening in the DR through GO Ministries! You can check them out by visiting their website [www.gomin.org](http://www.gomin.org). If you would like more information about the trip or GO please do not hesitate to call or email me at \_\_\_\_\_.

Dios le Bendiga! (Spanish for God Bless You!)



# MINISTERING CROSS-CULTURALLY

At the heart of GO Ministries is the desire for mutual transformation. Our hope is that all cultures are being transformed into the likeness of Christ. While we are working so closely with one another, and cultures intertwine, it's important to remember that North Americans will likely process and act differently than the Dominicans and Haitians. There is much we can learn from one another.

While we may not always understand each other's language, we are all experts at reading body language and facial expressions. Please be aware of how you may respond when you don't understand or agree with something you see. When we come into a situation with a posture of learning from one another the opportunities for transformation will be much greater. Our staff would love to share more with you on the field. Please show your team the short cross cultural communication video we created. It is located in the Resource Center on the GO Website at [www.gomin.org](http://www.gomin.org). In the meantime, here's a short list of things to be aware of as you seek to serve in another culture.

A few helpful reminders:

- Understand that plans can change and to be adaptable
- Give yourself the freedom to fail
- Focus on glorifying God through your actions and speech
- Seek to understand differences in cultures
- Clothe yourself in compassion, kindness and humility
- Rely on the power of the Holy Spirit and not the temptation of the flesh
- Be transparent and humble
- Be respectful of other's viewpoints including their religious and political views
- Refrain from theological debates or criticizing denominations
- Be mindful to not spend too much time with a member of the opposite sex as they may view this as flirting
- Refrain from giving money or items to local leaders or kids and do not make promises to bring them to the states. If you want to help a Local Leader or kid, please speak to a GO Ministries Staff member



# JOURNALING AND DEBRIEFING

It is very important for your team to set aside time each day to debrief. Being in another culture, with another language, and the brokenness you may encounter while serving may overwhelm, challenge, and push team members outside of their comfort zone. Debriefing is a wonderful opportunity to process each day's experiences – to share how you saw God at work, the challenges you encountered, to pray together, and reflect both individually and as a team.

Potential questions for debriefing:

- What was encouraging today? Share some highlights.
- What did you see that was discouraging? How did you deal with those things?
- What did you learn today?
- Where did you see God at work – in the community, in yourself, in another person?
- What were the stories of some of the people you met? How did their stories impact you?

Some teams have found this time is what builds and unifies their team – this time can also be used to share testimonies, share in worship, or have a foot-washing service.

The devotion GO provides includes pages for debriefing at the beach and once you arrive home. It is vital to gather a few days after returning to the US to process the emotions team members may encounter. These emotions vary from separation anxiety from the people they met and formed new relationships with, to having a negative attitude towards their home country, to feeling extremely guilty about returning to their “normal” lives. It is important that as a team you support one another and learn to take experiences from your time on the island and integrate them into your own culture. This may include praying for those who are serving in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, financially partnering with a local leader, begin planning a trip for next year, or sponsoring a GO Kid.

# CONTINUING THE MISSION AND VISION OF GO

After an incredible mission experience, most people do not want to return to their “normal” lives. When you go home, you will have the opportunity to prayerfully consider how God can use you in the ongoing work of supporting a local leader in the D.R. or Haiti. There are a variety of ways you can help from the U.S. Encourage your team to stay involved!

- **Partner with local leaders** - Come alongside a dedicated local leader to support their work on the island as they do full time ministry. This can be a pastor in a church, a construction leader, or one of our many support staff that help drive, cook or translate.
- **GO Kids: Education** - Sponsor a child in Colegio Evangelico Isaias Emmanuel. By doing so you help to cover their monthly tuition but also provide their school supplies, text books, Christmas present, and a birthday present.
- **GO Kids: Nutrition** - Sponsor a child in one of our 11 nutrition centers all over the Island. Help a child receive physical nourishment by getting a hot meal 6 days per week as well as spiritual nourishment.
- **GO Sports** - Come alongside our dedicated coaches who pour into the youth on the island. The coaches also do weekly bible classes and are role models to the youth both on the field and in life, helping them to become Godly men & women.
- **GO Medical** - Come alongside our trained medical staff who serve around the clock in treating those who cannot afford medical care. Our patients receive medical care, medicine, follow up visits when needed, all in an effort to show them Christ's love.
- **GO Kingdom Business** - Come alongside a team of people dedicated to growing and developing micro businesses and vocational schools in different communities to provide employment, skills/trades and harbor discipleship.
- **GO Seminary of the Americas** - Partner with the seminary as they create a foundation for active pastors and seminary students to receive incarnational training in ministry. GO will be planting churches and sending out new leaders across the island once they have graduated. The seminary allows all students to attend for free thanks to scholarships from donors.
- **Projects** - There are many opportunities to help meet the needs of tomorrow today.
  - The GO Leadership Development Complex is designed to equip, empower and train leaders from Latin America in various areas that include: special skills/trades, discipleship, business, churchplanting, education, and leadership.
  - GO Medical Clinic - Upon completion of the medical center, it will provide quality healthcare allowing for general and specialized medical services that will be able to track patient history, provide an in-house pharmacy, laser eye surgery and preventative dentistry to patients who otherwise could not afford it.

# HISPANIOLA FACTS

The Dominican Republic and Haiti share the island of Hispaniola. Hispaniola is the second largest island in the Caribbean after Cuba. While the two countries may share the same island, their cultures are vastly different.

## **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:**

- Population: 10,667,633
- Area is slightly more than twice the size of New Hampshire
- Santiago is the second largest city with a little over half a million people
- Batey 9 is one of 14 Bateys or sugarcane cutting communities
  - Southwestern Dominican near Barahona.
  - Thousands of Haitians were brought to the communities nearly 40 years ago to cut sugarcane and lived in slave like conditions.
- Language: Spanish
- Government type: Representative Democracy
- Average Yearly Income: \$6,756 annually per household
- 41.1% live below national poverty line
- Industries: tourism, exporting sugar, coffee, tobacco
- Unemployment Rate: 15%
- Average life expectancy: 78 years
- Currency: the peso fluctuates daily
- The year round average temperature is 21° C or 77° F
- The rainy seasons are from May-August & November-December
- State Religion: Catholicism
- The power sector in the Dominican Republic has traditionally been, and still is, a bottleneck to the country's economic growth. A prolonged electricity crisis and ineffective remedial measures have led to a vicious cycle of regular blackouts, high operating costs of the distribution companies, large losses including electricity theft through illegal connections, high retail tariffs to cover these inefficiencies, low bill collection rates, a significant fiscal burden for the government through direct and indirect subsidies, and very high costs for consumers as many of them have to rely on expensive alternative self-generated electricity.

## **HAITI:**

- Population: a little over 10,870,000
- Language: French & Creole
- Government type: Elected Government
- Haiti is the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere
- 80% living under the poverty line, 54% of which live in abject poverty
- The Gross Domestic Product (gdp) is \$805
- 40% unemployment rate
- Average life span is under 63 years of age
- 48% of children die by the age of 5  
(most due to the effects of malnutrition or disease)
- 39% of the population is illiterate
- State Religions: Voodoo and Catholicism

**"YES, I AM THE VINE;  
YOU ARE THE BRANCHES.  
THOSE WHO REMAIN IN ME,  
AND I IN THEM, WILL  
PRODUCE MUCH FRUIT. FOR  
APART FROM ME YOU  
CAN DO NOTHING"**

**-JOHN 15:5**

