



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

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 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.

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. 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. 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

