

Dominican Republic Mission Trip 2015

Overall Mission and Work

The Diocese of the Dominican Republic is our companion diocese, and the congregation of Espíritu Santo in Las Carreras is our sister church. Las Carreras is a small town located 20 minutes outside the larger city of Azua on the Caribbean coast.

Church members at Espíritu Santo currently meet and hold their services outside in a member's back yard. Members of St. Anne's have traveled to Las Carreras twice and worked on the construction of a church building for the congregation. It is time for us to go back to the DR and continue helping the people of Las Carreras build their new church home. We hope one day to be able to do more trips built around medical missions and Vacation Bible School, but this year will still be strictly a building mission.



Spirituality

Mission trips are highly physical and practical, but they are first and foremost spiritual. Prayer and the building of Christian community will be foundational aspects of our stateside preparations and our time in the Dominican Republic. Participants are encouraged to take seriously their own spiritual preparation for the trip, as well as our communal preparations as a group.

Itinerary

Saturday, March 7 – Saturday, March 14 (flying between Atlanta and Santo Domingo)

Financial Commitment and Deadlines

The overall cost for the trip will be approximately \$1,250 plus spending money while in Santo Domingo (including at least four meals and souvenirs). Church fundraisers will cover \$250 - \$500. We hope we will be able to cover more of the trip, but will not know how much until after our fall fundraiser. So you will need to plan to be able to cover approximately \$1,000. A \$500 deposit, which will go toward your airfare, is due by Sunday, Nov. 2, and serves as your official commitment to participating in the mission trip. If you have special circumstances related to this, please see Father Lonnie ASAP.

Process

A mission trip is very strenuous-physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. All of those considering going to the Dominican Republic will have extensive discussions about where we go and the work we do which requires many things of us as missionaries.

1. We have to be willing to give up control of knowing what is planned for the day or exactly what activities will be included.
2. We have to be comfortable living outside our comfort zones with one another. Privacy is often at a minimum; stress and vulnerabilities can run high; yet we must care for one another.
3. We have to be willing to do things the Dominican way instead of the American way, even if we think the American way is more efficient.
4. We have to be respectful of their culture even when it is completely different than what is accepted in ours.
5. We have to be physically able to do heavy manual labor in a hot, humid environment.
6. We have to appreciate that their style of worship may be different than ours, but it is completely filled with love and praise.

More Information

We will be holding the first informational meeting on Sunday, August 23, right after Sunday School in the Jerusalem Room. Until then, if you have questions, please feel free to contact Stacey Beckham at stacey@staceybeckham.com or (229) 563-7478 or Father Lonnie at rector@stannestifton.com or 382-7505.