



Evangelical Dominican Church Mission Handbook 2024

The Evangelical Dominican church is very excited about the opportunity to do mission in partnership with your team here in the Dominican Republic. This Handbook can serve as a starting point for answering Questions and concerns that members on a new team may have. Members of teams that have already worked with us in the past may find this information useful also.

Please take the time to read through everything to make yourself familiar with the basics. If after reading you still have questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

We are grateful for the support of volunteer in mission teams that have served with us in the DR.

In this book we also acknowledge the work of Brian Dubberly in the Salvadorian handbook which provide guideline for writing our handbook.

For new groups and those that have continued with us, we look forward to seeing you soon. Blessings!



Contact Information

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Rev. Bishop Miguel A. Cancu



Has been member for the Evangelical Dominican church since birth.

Within the church he has held various functions such as: President of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly, Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee, Chair of the National Evangelism Board and others.

He is a graduate from the Theological Seminary of the Dominican Evangelical Church, CETIED, graduated in Educational Science at the Initial Level and has an Honorable Mention of Christian Ministry from Emmanuel Christian University Union City Jersey, USA.

Rev. Cancu is married to Mrs. Altagracia Marmolejos, with whom he had a daughter, Doctor of Medicine, Anyeli Cancú Marmolejos. Since 2010 he has been the Bishop of the Dominican Evangelical Church.

Rev. Erasme Figaro

Pastor for the Evangelical Dominican church, actually is pastor in the community of cambita el Pueblecito.

Erasme graduate form the Theological Seminary of the Dominican Evangelical Church, CETIED, associate degree in Electronic in Telecommunication technology at ST. Louis Community College, USA., graduate from theology at National Evangelical university.

in addition to being a pastor, Erasme is responsible for Solar Oven Partners in the Dominican Republic. (program for the Dakota conference for the Methodist Church.) Married with Mrs. Laura hazel with whom he has two kids, Brianna and Esdras.





Mission Work

The great commission found in the final chapter of the gospel of Matthew, has been the center of all mission. As a member of a short-term mission group, encourage you to spend time praying asking for God guidance and studying your meaning of Christian service. The motto that has guided the Dominican Evangelical Church for many years is: To the glory of God and to the service of the community. However, we cannot ignore that in most Hispanic nations the gospel came with colonization. Blood and sword, unfortunately not the blood of Christ, but rather of the natives. Colonization passed African bodies and became fixed in their minds and from them to all of us who inherited them. After freedom, sometime mission has been uses as new way of colonization in middle of the poverty of our nations. We think partnership can make a significant difference in your mission experience as well as your faith walk in general.

For statistic, Poverty in the Dominican Republic round 24.1 % for woman and 21.8 % for men. Once our economy is one of the fastest growing economy in the world, however it is not the perception in the population. The number are make out of but not in the Dominican Republic. In mean that the development is not going to the people, in addition of that, RD serve a larch number of Haitian that are counted on millions.

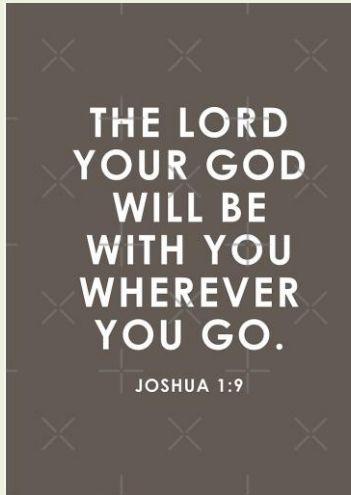
With the help of mission team, we hope to continue creating a model of mutuality in mission, where we both can give and receive. This is why your mission team is so important to create healthy, long-lasting relationships with the people thatyou will be serving and in return you too will be served.

The Dominican Evangelical Church (IED) was founded on January 1, 1922. This was the result of the union of Presbyterians, Methodists and United Brethren who decided to come to this Caribbean country to preach the gospel, organizing a new Church, autonomous and independent, without ties to foreign councils, which would elaborate its own thoughts, in the light of the confrontation of the Protestant Reformed traditions but above all of the Sacred Scriptures.

By 1934 some English-speaking congregations, which were already operating in the country, such as the Wesleyan Methodist in the North and Northeast and the Moravian, in the East, joined this movement, leading to consider the IED as one of the first organizations in the country to experiment with the union of churches. even before the organization of the World Council of Churches.

The Dominican evangelical church has 52 churches and several other chapels distributed throughout the national territory. In addition, it has various schools, clinics and other spaces from which it serves the Dominican population not only with the preached message, but also in action.

Safe travel to DR



Traveling anywhere in the world carries its risks. The Dominican Republic is no exception. In the recommendations of the Department of State, the DR is placed at level 2, for which it is recommended to exercise caution, recognizing that, the development of a professional tourist police corps, institution of a 911 system in many parts of the country, and a concentration of resources in resort areas means these tend to be better policed than urban areas like Santo Domingo. The recommendation to travelers are:

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not physically resist any robbery attempt.

Do not display signs of wealth, such as wearing expensive watches or jewelry.

- Follow the advice of resort and tour operators regarding local safety and security concerns

committed to your safety

We are committed to your safety and will do our best to make this possible. However, we recommend that you keep an eye on your belongings at all times. Follow the recommendations of the locals and do not display anything that could attract attention.



Getting to the Dominican Republic?

The Dominican Republic is one of the most accessible countries in Latin America, with 8 international airports and 5 tourist terminals, distributed throughout the country.

You are requested to complete an electronic ticket for your entrance on departure and keep the QR code that you receive, and the fee at the entrance is \$10 USD single-entry tourist card. We will let you know the address and name of where your team will be staying once we have you on the calendar. We will arrange your transportation from the airport and to the airport as well as local transportation. The Dominican Republic has a very organized route system that we can arrange pickup from any airport you choose. (meals in transit are not included in team expenses) but we can stop any time you request.



Lodging

Some churches in the Dominican Republic own a home in which we can host teams and we can accommodate most sized teams there. The cost of staying can be per day per person (including the day you arrive and leave, it can include or not food, however, we use to send you a budget with all the cost while we are planning your mission. Never the less, even in places where there is a mission house, your team has the decision to stay at a hotel if you request it. Once we have you on the calendar, we can discuss all your team's lodging.



Zika, Chikungunya and Dengue!

Like any Caribbean country, the Dominican Republic has been affected by mosquito-borne viruses. The mosquito that carries these viruses is one that is active during the day. Being vigilant about applying insect repellent is your best protection from these viruses.

Shots, Medicines & Your Health

We recommend that you see your family doctor before coming on your mission trip. You and your physician can decide what is best for your physical health and what vaccinations and medicines you will need for your mission experience.

The CDC classifies several most Caribbean countries as malaria risk. If you and your doctor feel it necessary to take medical precautions, then by all means do so. However, we have never had a problem with malaria.

If you take daily medications, please make sure that you bring enough for the duration of the trip in your carry-on luggage!

The water in the Dominican Republic **is not** safe for consumption by your mission team, so anything liquid that goes into your mouth needs to come from a bottle. We will make sure you have safe drinking water. Staying hydrated will make a huge difference in how you feel each day.

To cut down on plastic bottles and costs please ask each team member to bring a refillable water bottle.

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are a good idea but remember they do not kill everything and certainly do not replace soap and water. Make sure you purchase a quality sanitizer that has a minimum of 60% alcohol.

If for some reason you do get ill while in the Dominican Republic we can get you to a clinic at any time. More private professional medical care and medicines are easily available and will take travel insurance. We understand that some medical problems can be embarrassing, this is part of our lives here and the sooner we know you are having trouble the sooner we can help you get back on your feet and healthy.

How Much Does It Cost To Bring A Team



The cost to bring a team to the Dominican Republic can vary depending on the project(s) your team participate, the location of the project and where you choose to stay. Variation on US currency can vary the cost too. An estimate for food, lodging, and transportation will be between \$55 and \$60 per person, per day, it can vary depending on team size. A team estimation is between 10 and 12 members. Smallest group will increase individual expenses. In addition, we request that each team also bring an offering for coordination expenses associated with hosting your team. We recommend 3 or 4 hundred or as team consideration.



Some suggestions can be as follows:

Home Building project \$7,000.00

Church construction \$5500.00

(Including Material and professional Labor)

Food Distribution \$1,600

Teams doing Bible School have no in-country costs but teams are responsible for bringing their materials.

If translators are needed the cost is \$20 per day per translator.

Each mission team's cost will vary depending on projects, location, plane tickets, and the number of team members. Once we know you are coming, what you will be doing and staying we can give you a better idea of the total cost.

Your Funds

Due to changes in worldwide banking and money laundering laws, we suggest all team expenses must be brought in cash (large bills are fine). 18% fee will be applied to any use of international cards. We understand some team's reservations about carrying cash but we advise bringing cash is the most feasible option at this time. Remember that if one person is in possession of more than \$10,000 it must be declared in customs. You can avoid this by splitting the funds between several team members. We try to work with transparency, but we encourage you to manage your funds and budget. We will, of course, provide you with a receipt and if you need us to send an invoice to your financial administrator prior to the funds being released please let us know.

Additionally, meals in transit, teams that wish to stop for a meal when arrive and/or depart, will be at the expense of the team and is not figured in the food, lodging, and transportation expenses.



Some Things To Keep In Mind

While we encourage building relationships, we must insist that you do not give monetary gifts to anyone, including staff persons. We do not want to build the expectation or dependency; we encourage mission as partnership, where everyone has something to give. Maybe we do not have the resources that you have, but we are still able to give something to the mission. Likewise, this goes for giving money to individual churches or pastors. You are, of course, welcome to give during the church services. If you or your group wants to do anything extra for a particular church or person, we ask that you go through the church. Because of safety concerns or logistics, we are not able to take teams to all of our churches. Giving money directly to one church or one pastor gives the appearance of favoritism and is divisive for the church as a whole.

Alcohol is a serious social problem throughout Latin America. **Most protestant Christians abstain from consuming alcohol as a result we ask that you respect the church and the culture in the Dominican Republic and abstain from drinking for the duration of your mission trip.** Seeing or hearing about team members drinking can be confusing, so again please be prepared to not consume alcohol while staying with us.

Do We Get A Day Off?

The Dominican Republic is a Tourist island; therefore, the work of a teams will make no sense if you cannot have an idea on the beauty of this country. In any place you team is working there is always a beautiful place we can show you.

In all group we take a day off, to visit and to get in contact with Dominican culture and people, but also enjoy the beauty. Some tour con includes extra payment, nevertheless, it will be discussing it with you while we plan for your arrival. The Dominican Republic has a wonderful culture that you have to know and enjoy in order to have a better understanding of our relationship.

You may want to familiarize yourself with some Spanish vocabulary and phrases prior to your coming.

We recommend Spanishdict.com and the app Duolingo. Both are free.

You can feel free to contact us via email, WhatsApp or directly by phone, we will be glad to be in contact with you. if for some reason we cannot be contacted, please leave a message, we will get back to you as soon as it is possible.

Projects working in the Evangelical Dominican Church



Home Building We help repair or construct simple homes of concrete blocks or wood, depending on the possibilities, for families that own their own property but live in substandard housing. The houses build depending on the possibilities, the found or the land, people has. Houses are built for both church members and nonmembers.



Church Construction Projects Church is always in expansion, whether is a houses for the church to host the assigned pastor, a mission house, an extension of the church or a new church. All our building projects are built with concrete blocks. But we budget for the team as their possibility are to help church mission. If the team cannot complete the construction church will continue it as their possibility. We ask each team to budget as their possibility.



Solar Oven Partner Church is committed to the expansion of the glory of God in the Dominican Republic trough the promotion of the use of removable energy. It is a project in partnership with the Dakota Methodist church where here we distribute solar oven where people can use sun energy to cook. Team can help with this project coming here for distribution, with donation to Dakota conference in the name of solar oven, or going to the workshop at Dakota.



Bible School Kid is an important part of the ministry of our church. All teams are welcome to do Bible School while working with the Evangelical Dominican Church. Any time of the year we can arrange a Bible School, however, we prefer vacation time, end of June to September, for better response. We can work out in accordance with the team material or curriculum, which can be found here.



Medical Teams We arrange for medical teams to set up clinics in marginalized communities where people have little to no access to adequate medical care. Mission teams provide free services as well as dispensing medication. Medical mission teams are responsible for providing their own supplies and medicines. There are customs and tax forms and fees that must be filed and approved prior to you entering to the Dominican Republic but we can agree on that. **It need to be plan with time.** Additionally, if your team will need translators the cost is \$20 per day per translator.

Food Distribution This can happen at any time of the year. Team purchase bulk staple foods, and will repack the food into individual bags for distribution. In agreement with the church we will take small groups into the community that you are working in or another community that we are familiar with. We take time to talk and pray with the family so that your group members will have the opportunity to understand daily life and struggles of the particular family. The cost to participate in this program will depend on team possibilities.

Suggestions Of What To Pack

- Work Clothes
- Medicines
- Church Clothes
- Sunscreen and a Hat
- Shoes: work (closed toe), nonwork, and shower
- Work Gloves
- Bible
- Book or Music for free time
- Pen and notebook to journal
- Neosporin and Band-Aids
- Pain Reliever
- Hand Sanitizer and/or wipes
- Travel Pack Tissue (not all bathrooms will have paper)
- Water bottle
- Sunglasses
- Eye drops (especially contact wearers)
- Ziploc bags (pack any liquids in plastic bags or your clothes may be covered in shampoo when you arrive)
- Bug Spray
- Masks
- Patience

Travel Tips

- It is a good idea to take a change of clothes, and medicines and carry some personal items with you in your carry-on bag just in case your luggage does not arrive when you do.
- Remember to save space in your suitcase for souvenirs and coffee.
- If you have something special or sentimental that you can not live without it is probably best to leave it at home.

Some Final Thoughts

- Prepare to expect the unexpected
- Let God minister your lives through the work you do.
- Be flexible, people you are working with are not from your culture, what work for you may not work for them.
- Mission teams are only as strong as the people on them. The effectiveness of the trip depends on PRAYER and YOU! Have faith that God can make the impossible happen.
- Be patient with the people on your team. Everyone has personality habits that are annoying INCLUDING YOU!
- Being is more important than doing on a mission trip. Be open to hearing what God is saying to you on this trip. During this time, you will be free from the everyday distractions that fill your life. God speaks loudest when we are free from these distractions.
- Remember that there is more need that we can fulfill, let something to God. May something can impress you, but never give money directly to no one, every donation should go through the institution,, it can work in opposition the mission you are trying to accomplish.

UMVIM Registration and Insurance Safe Sanctuary

For us in the Dominican Evangelical Church it is an honor to represent our nation in God's mission with you. We hope that your experience will be pleasant, but that above all God will be glorified as we continue this service of brotherhood and fellowship that has been maintained for over a hundred years, to the glory of God and to the service of the community.

"If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:11



We strongly encourage and recommend that each mission team both register and get insurance through UMVIM, managed by the Southeast Jurisdiction. Insurance and registration are done online. In addition, we recommend that the mission group leader attend UMVIM Team Leader Training. We find that it makes a significant difference in the experience of your mission trip. It is also a good idea to register your team with the US Embassy here in the Dominican Republic through the State Department's website. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us or the UMVIM office in your jurisdiction.

*****While we recommend that you register and get your insurance through UMVIM, we must insist that you have Emergency Travel Insurance of some kind that covers each of your team members for the duration of their time in the Dominican Republic. It is unlikely that you will ever need to use the insurance, however, if there is an accident and you are not insured the expenses will be more. Again, please make sure that each member of your team has adequate Emergency Medical Insurance that will cover them during their time in the Dominican Republic.*****

Safe Sanctuary Policy

Each team must comply with their conference's or church's Safe Sanctuary Policy. Team Leaders should check with their Conference UMVIM Coordinator for specific policies, requirements, or expectations related to Safe Sanctuary/Child Protection Policies, background checks, and insurance before registration on the UMVIM SEJ site. If you have any questions, please contact your Conference UMVIM Coordinator at your Conference Office. If your conference does not have a Safe Sanctuary Policy, UMVIM has created a general one that can be found and downloaded at UMVIM.org.

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