

# Multiple Group Project 2015

**LOCATION:** SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**PROJECT DATES:** MARCH 19 - 29, 2015

**PARTICIPATION FEE:** \$795

*Flight to Santo Domingo is not included in the participation fee*



## Information Packet

### MARANATHA IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Maranatha's history with the Dominican Republic stretches back over three decades. The first contact with the country was made through a Maranatha volunteer named Van Vanden Heuvel, who committed months of his life to the Dominican Republic after a devastating hurricane in 1979.

Then in 1992, Maranatha embarked on an ambitious project to build 25 churches in Santo Domingo. Called Santo Domingo '92, more than 1,200 volunteers flew to the Dominican Republic in a period of three months to build. It was a watershed moment, and it changed how Maranatha operated as an organization. Santo Domingo '92 was also a significant moment in Dominican Republic's Adventist history as the project resulted in a membership surge. The churches sprouted daughter congregations, and then those groups needed church buildings too.

Maranatha returned in 2002 for another effort, building 50 churches. Once again, construction generated another growth in membership, and today the Adventist Church in the Dominican Republic has requested Maranatha's help in providing more places of worship for new congregations.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Multiple Group Project is designed for teams of 15 or fewer people that are too small to undertake an entire project on their own and/or who lack some of the key leadership roles such as cook, spiritual coordinator, team medic, or construction superintendent. Small teams join together for a large group experience, while still maintaining the intimacy and bonding of their own group.

Volunteers on this project will build two One-Day Churches and complete the concrete block walls. They will also paint and refurbish an existing Maranatha church in a nearby community as well as conduct community outreach projects, hold children's ministry programs, and offer medical clinics.



### PROJECT SCHEDULE

**Thursday, March 19**  
Groups Arrive in Santo Domingo

**Friday, March 20**  
Orientation and first work day

**Saturday, March 21**  
Worship with the local congregations

**Sunday, March 22 –  
Friday, March 27**  
Work days with midweek excursion

**Saturday, March 28**  
Worship with the local congregation

**Sunday, March 29**  
Departures from Santo Domingo

You will be part of at least three groups during this project: the group you come with to the Dominican Republic, the large group that is the Multiple Group Project, and the local community in the suburbs of Santo Domingo.

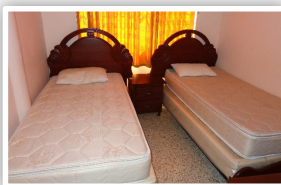
Maranatha is seeking Group Leaders who are interested in bringing a small group from a church, school, family, work group, or other entity. If you are interested in leading a group, contact Maranatha to join this project. If you are interested in leading a small group, contact Maranatha to join this project. If you know of a group that will be joining this project and you wish to join, follow up with the Group Leader for that team to register for the project. It fills up quick!

## Accommodations



Volunteers will stay in the suburbs of Santo Domingo, in a neighborhood with houses and small businesses.

The large group will stay at a facility about a 15-30 minute drive from the construction sites. It is a camp-like facility that supports large groups for church rallies and seminars, similar to a camp meeting facility. We have reserved two dormitory buildings, one for males and one for females. Each dorm has 60 bunk beds and group bathrooms. The facility does not provide bedding, so bring your own sleeping bags or sheets and blankets, as well as towels and washcloths.



If there are members of your group who would prefer not to be in the dorm, we have also reserved a limited number of small hotel rooms with private bathrooms. Those who stay in the hotel will need to pay an additional fee of \$30 per room per night, or \$300 for 10 nights. There is room for two individuals in each room, so that would come out to \$150 extra per person. Most rooms have two twin beds, and a few have one double bed. If you are interested in this option, contact Kim Haas at Maranatha for current availability and payment arrangements.

Breakfasts and suppers will be held at the large facility. There is a large kitchen and dining room that the group will use to cook and eat meals. The camp will not provide plates, silverware, cups, or bowls, so plan to bring these along as well. Worship services will also be held at the facility.

## Excursions

The Dominican Republic is known for its white sand beaches and beautiful Caribbean weather. As a group, we are planning to take a full day excursion to explore the Dominican Republic's gorgeous coastline. The group will take a two-hour bus ride to Bayahibe before taking a boat out to a small island called Isla Saona off the southeast coast of the Dominican Republic. In addition to enjoying the warm water, sandy beaches under palm trees, and a vegetarian lunch, volunteers will also have the opportunity to purchase souvenirs. The excursion cost is included in your participation fee.

## Expenses

Each individual participant is responsible for paying the participation fee of \$795. This fee covers housing for 10 nights, three vegetarian meals a day, purified water, ground transportation to and from the airport and project site, translators, a day excursion, secondary accident insurance, a Maranatha t-shirt, and luggage tags. The Group Leader's fee will be discounted the original \$500 group deposit.

If you will be paying individually, Maranatha asks for at least the first half of your participation fee before December 22, 2014. Alternatively, your group can gather the participation fees together as a group and send a check with the list of the participants who paid their participation fees, as apposed to submitting individual credit card charges. Wait for confirmation from your Group Leader before purchasing your airfare. Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by February 16, 2015.

If you are fundraising or receiving donations, please have them sent directly to you or work with your local church treasurer to collect funds and issue tax-deductible receipts, since it is difficult for Maranatha to track individual small checks. If your church will not work with you, please wait until you have collected the first down payment or full amount before submitting your participation fee to Maranatha.

If for any reason an individual needs to cancel their participation, Maranatha will do their best to refund the participation fee paid up until one month before the project. After that point, \$150 is non-refundable and the remainder will depend on the reservations and the project arrangements already made. However, if the small group adds another person in place of the cancelled participant, the funds reserved can be applied towards their participation fee. The \$500 group deposit is non-refundable.

**Estimate of Additional Costs**

- **Flight to Santo Domingo** \$ 700-1000
- **Passport** \$130 or \$110 for renewal
- **Entrance Card** \$10 (purchased at the airport upon arrival in Santo Domingo)

**Leadership**

A network of experienced Maranatha volunteers from the United States and the Dominican Republic will help with this project.

<b>Kim Haas</b>	Maranatha Contact
<b>Steve Case</b>	Overall Project Coordinator
<b>Luther Findley</b>	Construction Superintendent
<b>Loretta Jessop</b>	Head Cook
<b>Gary Jessop</b>	Construction Assistant



These leaders are the coordinators who will work along side local Maranatha construction crew leaders and your group leaders to coordinate this project. These volunteers are experienced Maranatha leaders from numerous projects.

**We Need Your Help**

While we have the core leaders required for a project, we still need more help. We are seeking individuals with a willingness to serve in construction, children’s ministry, cooking, and basic medical and dental services. We will depend on your groups to assist in these leadership roles. We encourage you to recruit a translator and skilled mason for the trip, although this is not required for participation.

**ABOUT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

The Dominican Republic is a tropical island in the Caribbean with sandy, white beaches and luscious green mountains. It is the second most popular destination in the Caribbean after Puerto Rico, and visitors flock to the island to indulge in fancy resorts and year-round golf courses.

Yet a look beyond the tourist attractions reveals a nation with a history that is not so picturesque. The Dominican Republic lies on the eastern part of an island that it shares with Haiti. Originally, the indigenous tribe of Taínos inhabited the entire land mass. The Spanish colonized it in the late 1400s, making it the first permanent European settlement in the Americas. The island, called Hispanola, suffered centuries of a tug-of-war between the French and Spanish. In 1804, the Spanish ceded the western third of the island to the French, and that portion of the island became Haiti. The remaining land became the Dominican Republic, which gained independence in 1844.

Since then, the Dominican Republic has had a turbulent history with ownership returning to Spain, only to have a war to regain independence. The country also fell into the hands of a dictator from 1930-1961. Today, the Dominican Republic is a democracy, working toward maintaining a stable and healthy country. Tourism fuels its economy, and it has the second largest economy in Central America and the Caribbean. However, in the rural areas of the country, poverty continues to be a problem, particularly near the Dominican-Haitian border.

Given its history with colonization, the country's culture is a blend of several influences. Spanish architecture is evident in areas of Santo Domingo, particularly in its cathedrals and cobblestone streets. Merengue, their national music and dance, is ubiquitous in the Dominican Republic, and it originated from slaves who worked in the sugar beet fields with their feet connected to each other by chains. Baseball, an American export, is an obsession for people of all ages and children can be seen playing games wherever there is space.

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

Groups will be responsible for arranging travel to and from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Please wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project. After you have been confirmed and have purchased your tickets, be sure to send your flight itineraries to Kim Haas at the Maranatha office. Together volunteers will travel by bus to the lodging accommodations.

### Flights

**Arrival** | Please plan to arrive in Santo Domingo (airport code SDQ) on Thursday, March 19, 2015.

**Departure** | Please plan to depart from Santo Domingo (SDQ) on Sunday, March 29, 2015.

The Dominican Republic has some beautiful travel destinations. If your group, or any individual, plans to arrive earlier than March 19 or stay beyond March 29, please make your own travel arrangements and reservations for any days outside of the Maranatha project.

### Resources

**Azumano Travel:** 800-454-4099 or by email with Erle at [edpenha@azumano.com](mailto:edpenha@azumano.com)

**Butler Travel:** 503-879-5005 or by email with Nathanael at [nathan@butlertravel.com](mailto:nathan@butlertravel.com) or with Ellen at [ellen@butlertravel.com](mailto:ellen@butlertravel.com).

Kayak: [www.kayak.com](http://www.kayak.com)

When contacting the Azumano or Butler travel agencies, mention Maranatha for the best fares.

### Entry Requirements

All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (September, 2015). If you do not have a passport, US citizens can apply at any US post office or online at <http://travel.state.gov>. Canadian citizens can apply online at [www.passport.gc.ca](http://www.passport.gc.ca). It can take up to two months to complete the entire process, so plan accordingly to give yourself enough time to receive your passport before the project.

In addition to your passport, all visitors must purchase a tourist card upon arrival in the country. There will be stations at the airport to make this purchase. The fee is \$10 and must be paid in US currency. Please bring new, unmarked, bills to make this transaction. This tourist card will act as your visa for up to 60 days in the country.

Citizens of other countries, please consult the Dominican embassy or consulate in your home country for entrance requirements.



## FACTS & FIGURES

**Capital:** Santo Domingo

**Population:** 10,088,598

**Language:** Spanish

**Climate:** Tropical maritime. Little seasonal temperature variation

**Religion:** Roman Catholic 95%

**Currency:** Dominican Peso (approximately 41 pesos to \$1 USD)

## MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS & PRECAUTIONS

Maranatha requires that every volunteer have a current tetanus vaccine (within the last ten years). The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends vaccines for hepatitis A and B, typhoid, and an anti-malarial medication.

There is a risk of malaria for the entire island; however, it is not common in the city of Santo Domingo. Mosquitoes are prevalent throughout the island, and even though the locals say that they don't carry malaria, Maranatha recommends that you speak with a medical professional about options regarding malaria prevention. Mosquitoes are also known for carrying the Caribbean disease, Chikungunya, so we recommend that you take personal precautions such as wearing long pants and using insect repellent to avoid being bitten.

Another potential risk is cholera, a bacterial disease that is spread primarily through the ingestion of contaminated food and water. All food prepared by the Maranatha group will be prepared in a safe manner, and purified water will be provided.

Some vaccines you may already have and some you may deem unnecessary for this trip. Because Maranatha is not a medical organization, we recommend that you schedule a consultation with a travel clinic doctor to talk about the medical risks in the Dominican Republic and the ways to minimize them.

## HOW TO REGISTER

To register your small group, please complete the online registration and pay the group deposit of \$500. Once Maranatha confirms your group, you will be given a link to complete your individual registration. There is also a payment link available for individuals wishing to pay online. Members of your group will use that link to register for themselves individually or as a family.

As a Group Leader, you will be given access to a web platform called Basecamp that will provide additional information you will need to coordinate your group and set their deadlines.

If you are a member of a small group, speak with your Group Leader to receive the application link.

Register online at [www.maranatha.org](http://www.maranatha.org) or over the phone.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Phone:** (916) 774-7700

**Fax:** (916) 774-7701

**Email:** [volunteer@maranatha.org](mailto:volunteer@maranatha.org)

**Website:** [www.maranatha.org](http://www.maranatha.org)

### Mailing Address:

Maranatha Volunteers International  
990 Reserve Drive, Suite 100  
Roseville, CA 95678

### Canadian Payments Only:

Maranatha Volunteers International Assoc.  
c/o V06494C  
PO Box 6494, Station Terminal  
Vancouver, BC V6B 6R3



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## BUY MARANATHA MERCHANDISE!

Share the spirit of service with Maranatha-themed apparel and accessories.

### NIKE CLASSIC POLO \$45



This classic golf polo has stitch-trimmed shoulder panels, flat knit collar, three-button placket and open hem sleeves—with Dri-FIT fabric technology to keep you dry on those hot days.

### HARD HAT \$11



This MSA V-Gard hard hat, with Staz-On suspension, ensures excellent shock absorption on the job site.

**MARANATHA.ORG**



## TO ORDER, CALL (916) 774-7700

All prices are excluding sales tax and shipping.

### CAP \$12



All cotton and easy to pack, this cap is sure to keep the sun off your face on a mission project and at home.

### WATER BOTTLE \$15



The autospout water bottle by Contigo features a one-touch-button spout for convenient one-handed drinking. It also has a spout shield to protect the spout from debris and dirt when not in use—perfect for the project site.

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VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL