



Summer Family Project 2016

Information Packet

Location: San Cristobal, Dominican Republic

Project Dates: June 16-26, 2016

Participation Fee: \$895

\$745 for children ages 12 and under

(Age determined on the start date of the project)

Flight to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, is not included in the participation fee

Maranatha in the Dominican Republic

Maranatha's history with the Dominican Republic stretches back over several decades. The first contact with the country was made when Maranatha volunteers helped to construct churches and homes that were destroyed when a devastating hurricane hit the island 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 the Dominican Republic's Adventist history as the project resulted in a membership surge. The churches sprouted daughter congregations, and then those groups needed buildings too.

Maranatha returned in 2002 for another effort—this time to build 50 churches. Once again, construction generated another growth spurt in membership. For this most recent effort, the Adventist Church in the Dominican Republic has requested Maranatha's help in providing more places of worship for new congregations.

Project Overview

Volunteers on the Summer Family Project will be working in several communities surrounding San Cristobal, Dominican Republic.

The first project will involve the construction of the Voz de Salvación Church. Maranatha is now including volunteers in the early stages of construction. Maranatha employees in the country will clear the property and prepare the site by digging ditches and collecting the necessary materials before our group arrives. But then we'll be actually laying the foundation and pouring the floors for the church. This is hard work, and it involved tying rebar, mixing and pouring lots and lots of concrete, and leveling the surface of the floor. Teens on Maranatha's Ultimate Workout will lay the block walls for this church the following month.



Project Schedule

Thursday, June 16
Arrival in Santo Domingo

Friday, June 17
Orientation and first work day

Saturday, June 18
Worship with the local congregations

Sunday, June 19 – Friday, June 24
Work days with midweek excursion

Saturday, June 25
Worship with the local congregations

Sunday, June 26
Departure from Santo Domingo

The Voz de Salvación congregation is currently meeting in a small metal structure. Both sunlight and rain pour into the structure through holes and rusted cracks in the walls and roof. They have been waiting for several years for a new place of worship. When Maranatha announced they were finally going to provide a new sanctuary, the members had tears in their eyes as they said, “Thank you! You are an answer to our prayers.”

The second project will be to complete the block walls for the Canastica II Church. Another Maranatha group of volunteers will have put in the foundation and floor for this church prior to our arrival, and we'll be putting up the block walls for the next phase of construction on Canastica II. This congregation has also been waiting a long time for a new building. There are more than 100 members that currently meet in a rented house. On Sabbath morning they overflow into the street, and the visitor's class has to meet outside under a tree! They have saved their money and have purchased a large lot that will accommodate a new church as well as a community services building that they hope to build later.

In addition to these two construction projects, volunteers will paint the Villa Linda Church, recently completed by Maranatha. There will also be opportunities to reach out into the local community through medical clinics, health education programs, and children's ministry programs. There is plenty of work to be done.

About the Family Project

Each year, Maranatha offers at least two mission projects specifically for families. One takes place in the summer, and the other is during Christmas. Designed to accommodate volunteers of any age—from two to 92—the project is an excellent alternative to a theme-park family vacation or gift-centered holiday. Volunteers who participate say the experience has not only broadened their perspective on the world and missions, but it's brought them closer together as a family. Families of all types and sizes are welcome, and individuals are also welcome to join. Family projects fill up very quickly, so register early if you are interested in joining this mission trip!

Children at the Project Site

We have different expectations for young volunteers, depending on their age and maturity. We expect children ages 13 or older to put in a full day of work, whether it's on the construction site, in the kitchen, or with outreach activities. Children 12 years and under may help with construction, but they must work under the supervision of a parent or designated adult.

For younger volunteers, Maranatha will have a day camp with different activities organized during work hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.), which could include the following:

Work | We'll plan simple tasks so kids can put in a few hours on the construction site.

Play | We'll schedule time for kids to let loose and have fun, because playtime is an important part of being a kid. Children's activities will include swimming one or two days during the project.

Cultural Experiences | We'll introduce kids to local customs, such as visiting a marketplace or washing clothes in a river.

Outreach | We'll encourage kids to help with children's ministry programs and other service activities. We won't necessarily have all of these components every day, but these categories will make up the activities available for young volunteers. Parents can drop their child off with the program leaders, stay with their child, or keep their child with them throughout the day.

Accommodations

Volunteers will stay at a large Adventist summer camp, located about 20 minutes outside of San Cristobal. The camp is set in a beautiful countryside with walking access to a beach. Each day the group will travel by private bus to the project locations. The Voz de Salvación site is approximately an hour away, and the Canastica site is approximately 25 minutes away.

Families will stay in small dormitory rooms. Each room has six beds; some are bunk beds and some are freestanding single beds. The rooms are not air-conditioned, but they do have one overhead fan for some air movement. You might consider bringing a small, personal battery-operated fan for extra air movement or consider purchasing a larger one in the DR. Bathrooms and showers are located in a hallway, connected to four rooms. There is no warm water, so be prepared for cold water showers, which will probably feel nice in the humid weather. Be sure to bring your own bedding.

We also have a VERY limited number of private rooms with AC and double beds that will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis for an additional cost. Look for more information about this in an email or in the final information packet.

Each morning and evening the group will meet in one of the meeting halls for worship. We will use the kitchen and dining room for meals.

Excursions

During the project, the group will take a break from all the hard work. The group will have an option to join one of two options for day trip excursions. The first option is a trip to Isla Catalina, an island located about 1.5 miles from mainland Dominican Republic. The picturesque island has white sand beaches, warm clear waters, and palm trees. The tour includes snorkeling equipment and opportunities to purchase souvenirs from the beach vendors. The second option is a walking tour of the colonial district of Santo Domingo where there are historical artifacts and buildings as well as opportunities to purchase souvenirs.

Expenses

The participation fee covers housing for ten nights at the Adventist camp, three vegetarian meals a day, ground transportation to and from the airport and project site, local excursions, secondary accident insurance, a Maranatha t-shirt, and luggage tags.

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by May 16 in order to mail the final packets. Wait for confirmation of acceptance on the project before purchasing your airfare.

If you are fundraising or receiving donations please either 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 full amount of your participation fee before submitting your participation fee to Maranatha.

Estimate of Additional Costs

- Flight to Santo Domingo \$500 - \$800
- Passport \$130 or \$110 for renewal
- Tourist Tax \$10 (paid upon arrival in Santo Domingo)

Leadership

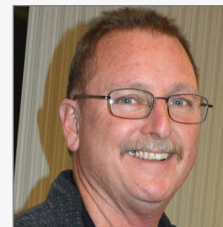
Steve Case, Project Coordinator and Spiritual Coordinator | Steve will oversee all aspects of the trip and lead the group worships each morning and evening. Steve has coordinated numerous short-term mission trips for all types of groups. He loves family projects and was Maranatha's first family project leader. Steve lives in Carmichael, California, with his wife Marit. He is president of Involve Youth, a ministry organization that energizes young people for service.



Danny Poljak, Overall Construction Superintendent | Danny will be leading the construction aspect of this year's Summer Family Project. He joins the group from Roseville, California, where he works in the construction industry. He has served with Maranatha in Nicaragua, India, the Dominican Republic, and Panama. Danny has led the construction on the last two year's Summer Family Projects, where he was joined by his wife Branka and his daughter Anella. Danny is enthusiastic that something tangible, like a building, can be so transformative to a congregation and a community, and he is passionate about his daughter growing up with a desire to serve others. When not on a Maranatha project, Danny also enjoys SCUBA diving and biking.



Robert Holmes, Construction Assistant | Robert Holmes, known to most as “Builder Bob,” joins the group from Placerville, California where he lives with his wife of 35 years. He got involved with Maranatha in 2005 when he joined a mission trip with the Carmichael Adventist Church, and hasn’t been able to stop! Since that first trip, he has been on 14 mission trips around the world including parts of Central and South America, Asia, Africa, and the United States. On these projects he uses his more than 30 years of general contractor experience to lead the construction aspects of the trips. When not volunteering with Maranatha, he likes to hike, backpack, travel, garden, and of course, build things. He is looking forward to showing people the joy of working for God on this project. And get ready to have some fun; Builder Bob likes to joke around and enjoy the construction process!



Maggie Petersen, Head Cook | Maggie Petersen first volunteered with Maranatha through a project with her church and has since volunteered on several projects in the United States and in Central and South America. She recently returned to her home state of Colorado after living and working as a nurse practitioner in California for 43 years. Maggie has two children and four grandchildren, and she enjoys traveling with her friends and family. She is looking forward to the miracles God will once again perform when putting on the Summer Family Project.



About the Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic is a beautiful tropical country, located on the island of Hispaniola. The landscape boasts sandy, white beaches and luscious green mountains. It is the second most popular destination in the Caribbean after Puerto Rico. Visitors flock to the island to indulge in fancy resorts and year-round golf courses.

Yet a look beyond the tourist attractions reveals 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 entire land mass was inhabited by the indigenous tribe of Taínos. The Spanish colonized it in the late 1400s, making it the first permanent European settlement in the Americas. Hispaniola 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, poverty continues to be a problem in rural parts of the country, 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, the national music and dance, is ubiquitous in the Dominican Republic, and it originated from slaves who worked in the sugar beet fields, 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.



Facts and Figures

Capital:
Santo Domingo

Population:
10.5 million

Language:
Spanish

Climate:
Tropical maritime. Little seasonal temperature variation

Religion:
95% Roman Catholic

Currency:
Dominican Peso (approximately 45 pesos to \$1USD)

Travel Information

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets to the capital city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (see below). Please wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project. Volunteers will travel by chartered bus to the project location.

Flights

Arrival | Please plan to arrive in Santo Domingo (airport code SDQ) in the afternoon or early evening of Thursday, June 16, 2016. Please try to arrive before 6 p.m.

Departure | Please plan to depart from Santo Domingo (SDQ) in the morning of Sunday, June 26, 2016.

Travel Resources

Azumano Travel: 800-454-4099 or by email with Erle at edpenha@ciazumano.com

Butler Travel: 503-879-5005 or by email with Nathanael at nathan@butlertravel.com or with Ellen at ellen@butlertravel.com.

Kayak: www.kayak.com

When contacting the Azumano or Butler travel agencies, make sure you mention Maranatha to receive a discounted service charge.

Entry Requirements

All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (December 26, 2016). If you do not have a passport, U.S. citizens can apply at any U.S. post office or online at <http://travel.state.gov>. Canadian citizens can apply online at www.passport.gc.ca. It can take up to two months to complete the entire process, so plan to give yourself enough time to receive your passport.

In addition to a passport, 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 U.S. 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.

Traveling with Minors

If you are traveling with a legal minor (under the age of 18 on the date you depart), both parents or legal guardians must travel with the minor. Otherwise, you must have two parental consent forms notarized. This provides government entities with evidence that both guardians have consented to their child leaving the country with the other guardian and Maranatha. One original must be mailed to Maranatha, and the other original must stay with you while you travel. If a parent is divorced, the missing parent still needs to sign the form unless the parent traveling with the minor has sole legal custody. In that case, a copy of the divorce paperwork, indicating sole custody, must also be included. If a parent has died, a copy of the death certificate must be included.

You can download a PDF of the Parental Consent Form at <http://www.maranatha.org/resources>. This form will ask for two people as appointees of the minor. The first appointee will be the guardian traveling with the child. The other will be Steve Case, Maranatha's project coordinator for the Summer Family Project.

Staying Healthy

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

The CDC states a risk of malaria for the entire island; however, it is not common in the Santo Domingo area. Mosquitos are prevalent throughout the island, and even though the locals say that they don't carry malaria,

Maranatha suggests that you speak with a medical professional about malaria prevention and follow their recommendation. Mosquitos are also known for carrying other diseases such as dengue and other Caribbean illnesses, which cannot be prevented with a vaccine. We recommend that you take personal precautions such as wearing long pants and using insect repellent to avoid being bitten.

Some of these vaccines you may already have and some of them you may deem unnecessary for this trip. You should 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, please complete the online registration and pay the full participation fee or an initial deposit of at least half the total participation fee. You can make this payment by credit card online or over the phone or with a check made out to Maranatha Volunteers International and sent to the address below. If for any reason you need to cancel your participation, Maranatha will do their best to refund your deposit up until one month before travel. After that point, \$150 is non-refundable and the remainder will depend on the reservations and the project arrangements already made.

Register online at Maranatha.org or over the phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (916) 774-7700

Fax: (916) 774-7701

Email: volunteer@maranatha.org

Website: www.maranatha.org

Mailing Address:

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

Canadian Payments Only:

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

THE MARANATHA STORE

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, VISIT MARANATHA.ORG/STORE
OR 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.

MARANATHA
VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL