



Young Adult Project 2016

Information Packet

Location: Barahona, Dominican Republic

Project Dates: July 27 - August 7, 2016

Participation Fee: \$925



Flight to Santo Domingo 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

The Young Adult Project is a project geared toward young adults ages 18-35. Volunteers can be in school, out of school, married, single, employed, unemployed, whatever! The best part about the project is getting to meet other young adults who are also interested in discovering God through service.

Volunteers on this project will work in three different communities surrounding Barahona, Dominican Republic.

First, volunteers will be working at the Fidelidad church. This church is located in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Barahona, and many of the members lack even the necessities like food and running water. The members desperately needed a new church

Project Schedule

Wednesday, July 27
Arrival in Santo Domingo (SDQ)

Thursday, July 28 – Friday, July 29
Orientation and work days

Saturday, July 30
Worship with the local congregation

Sun., July 31 – Fri., August 5
Work days with midweek excursion

Saturday, August 6
Worship with the local congregation. Return to Santo Domingo

Sunday, August 7
Afternoon departures from Santo Domingo

building, and two years ago Maranatha teen volunteers on the Ultimate Workout answered their prayers. Now, they find that they could really use a property wall. Because of their location in this poor neighborhood, a lot of local kids do not have respect for the church and throw rocks or smudge the walls. They want a building that is representative of the God they serve, so they have requested Maranatha's assistance to build a block wall to protect their church. In addition, the group will construct a small One-day Church building in the back of the property to serve as a children's Sabbath school classroom.

Second, volunteers will help paint and complete finishing work for two church buildings that were recently completed by Maranatha: the Fudeco and Juan Esteban congregations. Both of these congregations were meeting in rented buildings or small church buildings that leaked and were too small for all the members. They have both received new block churches thanks to Maranatha volunteers, but now they will receive a new coat of paint!

In addition to the construction work, this team will also reach out into the communities where they work through creative community outreach. These activities could include holding children's ministry programs, health education meetings, and women's ministry programs as well as visiting local community members to distribute food, clothes, hygiene kits, etc. We are still looking for someone to lead the outreach and children's ministry aspects of this project. If you are interested in helping to lead in this area, please contact Maranatha at (916) 774-7700.

Accommodations

Volunteers on the Young Adult Project will stay at a beach house on the southwestern coast of the Dominican Republic, about 20 minutes south of Barahona. The house has eight rooms with single and double beds as well as a common room on the 2nd floor that will be furnished with bunk beds. Women and couples will share rooms, and men will sleep in the bunk room.

Each of the either rooms has a bathroom, but those staying in the common room will use one of the bathrooms. Electrical outlets are in short supply, so don't plan on bringing electric razors, hair dryers, or straighteners. You can survive two weeks without it. Meals will be prepared in the kitchen on the 2nd floor. The beach is a short walk from the house; however, there are rip tides and urchins, so please do not swim in the water. Around the corner, we are told there is a safer beach; however, please talk with the project coordinator before going there and swim at your own risk. There are no lifeguards.

Approximately 32 people can be accommodated in the rooms. If the project fills up, there would be an opportunity for more people to join if they would like to camp. There is a tenting area outside where people can pitch tents and/or set up hammocks. Please bring mosquito nets if you choose to camp.

Plan on bringing your own pillow, bedding, towels, and washcloths to use during the project. A full packing list will be provided to confirmed participants in the final information packet.

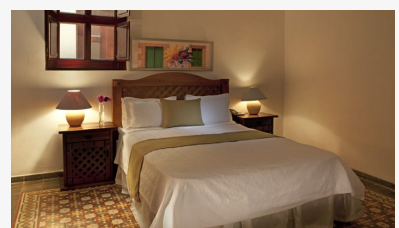
Excursions

The Dominican Republic has a lot of natural beauty. During the project, the group will take a break from all the hard work for a day trip excursion. The exact details are still to be determined, but the trip will most likely include a boat trip to a local beach. Either way, it will be a day to remember!

At the end of the trip, the group will return to Santo Domingo and spend the night in the Colonial District at the Antigua Hotel Europa. That night you will have the opportunity to browse through some souvenir shops, and in the morning a few shops will be open before you depart. If you want more time for shopping, we recommend booking a flight in the afternoon or evening.



Barahona Hotel



Santo Domingo Hotel



Expenses

The participation fee covers housing for 11 nights, 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 July 27. 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 it to Maranatha.

Estimate of Additional Costs

Flight to Santo Domingo \$500 - \$900

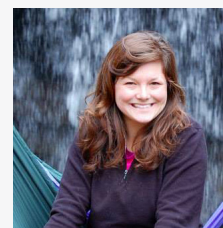
Passport \$130 or \$110 for renewal

Tourist Tax \$10 (paid upon arrival in Santo Domingo)

Leadership

Angela Boothby | Project Coordinator

Angela grew up on a small farm in Michigan with her parents and two brothers. She is an elementary school teacher who taught K-2 for the past three years. Recently she has been teaching at an Adventist camp, running the outdoor education program for 5th and 6th graders, which combines her love of teaching and the outdoors. She first joined Maranatha in 2006 as a participant on the Ultimate Workout, Maranatha's teen project. Last year she joined the Ultimate Workout as a project coordinator and stayed on for the Young Adult Project to lead outreach and spiritual activities. She is very close to her family and loves to spend time with them when not traveling the world. Angela is thrilled to be leading this project!



Looking for More Leaders

This project still needs a Spiritual Coordinator, Construction Superintendent, Team Medic, and Outreach Coordinator. If you are interested in leading any of these areas, please contact Maranatha at (916) 774-7700.

About the Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic is a beautiful tropical country, located on the island of Hispaniola. The landscape boasts white sand 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 shared 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.

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)

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.

Travel Information

Flights

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

Arrival | Please plan to arrive in Santo Domingo (airport code SDQ) before 4pm on Wednesday, July 27. It is important that you try to arrive in the morning or early afternoon. After everyone arrives, the group will have a 4.5 hour bus trip to the hotel.

Departure | Please plan to depart from Santo Domingo (SDQ) after 1:30pm on Sunday, August 7. The group will be staying in the Colonial District and will have the opportunity to do some souvenir shopping. A few shops open at 9am, but the most open later in the morning. You are welcome to book a morning flight, but you would miss out on this shopping experience. The later your flight, the more shopping time you will have.

*Maranatha made a change to the project location and flight guidelines on April 22. If you were a confirmed participant before April 22 and booked a ticket outside of these time frames before this packet was published, please call Maranatha to discuss options.

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, 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 (February 8, 2017). 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.

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. Mosquitoes 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. Mosquitoes 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 form 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, 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 our 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

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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.



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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.

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