



# Dominican Republic Project



**Location:** Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

**Project Dates:** February 1 -11, 2024

**Participation Fee:** \$1,695

**Children 12 and Under:** \$1,545

**Final Deadline:** January 1, 2024

*\*All amounts are listed in U.S. dollars.*

*Flights are not included in the participation fee*

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### Ciudad del Cielo School

In the northern part of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, there is a neighborhood called Ciudad del Cielo. It is a fast-growing area with 80 Seventh-day Adventist congregations but not a single Adventist school. In fact, there isn't even a Christian school in the area!

The Adventist leadership in the region believes that a school could make a significant impact in the community, not only on the existing membership but on those seeking a values-based education. They were able to purchase a large plot of land but needed help constructing the school.

After much prayer and discussion, Maranatha has committed to constructing a campus at Ciudad del Cielo, which means "City of Heaven" in Spanish. The school will have a large Education and Evangelism Center in addition to a two-story classroom complex, a large church that holds 500 people, a wall to wrap around the property, and beautiful landscaping.

Ciudad del Cielo is dedicated to Darrell Hardy, Maranatha's late vice president of construction; this was the last project he worked on before he passed away, unexpectedly, in November 2022.

**Construction:** Volunteers will lay block walls for the new EEC (Education and Evangelism Center). The foundation and steel frame will already be in place, thanks to Maranatha's in-country construction team.

**Outreach:** Depending on the skills and interest of the group, volunteers can reach out through children's ministry, a medical clinic, and health education programs at nearby public schools and churches.

## MARANATHA IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

*Maranatha is a responsive organization that works with the Seventh-day Adventist Church; all efforts are by invitation from local leadership.*

Maranatha's work in the Dominican Republic stretches back to the late 1970s, when volunteers built homes following a devastating hurricane. In 1992 Maranatha embarked on an ambitious project to build 25 churches in Santo Domingo. More than 1,200 volunteers served in the Dominican Republic over a span of 70 days, and the result changed how Maranatha operated as an organization. Those churches formed daughter churches, and the need for buildings continued. Since then, Maranatha has held two more series of volunteer efforts, one in the early 2000s and one in the late 2010s. Now, Maranatha returns to once again meet the needs of growing congregations throughout the country.

## Accommodations

Our group will stay at the Renaissance Santo Domingo Hotel. The participation fee is based on double occupancy. If you would like to room with someone in particular, please let us know prior to the final deadline of the project. The hotel has filtered water and ice available. The cost for a single supplement (having a room to yourself) is an additional \$520. Please contact Maranatha to make these arrangements prior to the final deadline.

### Amenities:

Room Style	2 double beds or king bed
Private Bathroom	Yes
Hot Water	Yes
Bed Linens	Yes
Towels	Yes
Air Conditioning	Yes
WiFi	Yes
Laundry	Yes (Paid Service)
Pool and gym	Yes
Distance to Work Locations	40-45 minutes driving

## Excursions

This project includes a short excursion. If you choose to add any other excursions without Maranatha, please schedule them for before or after the project dates, so you won't miss out on any of the Maranatha experience.

### Isla Catalina

Isla Catalina is located about 1.5 miles from the mainland. The picturesque island has white sand beaches; warm, clear water; and palm trees. The group will depart early on Wednesday morning with a box breakfast to eat along the way. We'll stop after about an hour to visit a large cave, and then continue to La Romana. From there, a small catamaran will take us to the island. About halfway to the island, the boat will stop off shore at "The Wall," which is a small coral reef where volunteers can snorkel. Masks, snorkels, and fins are provided, but you're also welcome to bring your own equipment. Standard-size life jackets are available, as well as adjustable snorkeling belts. The owner says they should fit children above the age of eight. If your child is younger or small for their age, you may consider bringing your own life jacket for them.

Once on the island, the group will have a reserved section of beach chairs with some shade trees. Lunch and sodas will be served on the island, and there are opportunities to purchase souvenirs from beach vendors, or even enjoy a back massage (at an additional cost). After a few hours, the group will return to the mainland.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 1  
Arrival in Santo Domingo

Friday, February 2  
Orientation and first work day

Saturday, February 3  
Worship with the local congregations

Sunday, Feb. 4 - Friday, Feb. 9  
Work days with mid-week excursion

Saturday, February 10  
Worship with the local congregations

Sunday, February 11  
Departure from Santo Domingo



## Leadership

<b>Karen Godfrey</b>	Project Coordinator
<b>Peter Thomas</b>	Construction Superintendent
<b>Gilberto Araujo</b>	Maranatha Country Director
<b>Jessyka Araujo</b>	Maranatha Volunteer Support
<b>Emmanuel Alberty</b>	Maranatha Volunteer Support

## Expenses

- **Participation Fee:** \$1,695
- **Children 12 and Under:** \$1,545
- **Final Deadline:** January 1, 2024

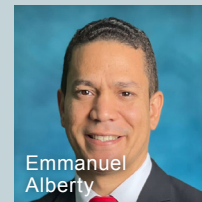
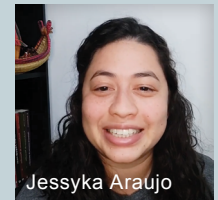
All amounts are listed in U.S. dollars (USD). Ages are determined on the start date of the project. Participation fees are tax deductible. Any separately-listed excursion fees are not tax deductible.

### Payments can be made in three ways:

- Check sent to the Maranatha office in California (include a note with your name and “Dominican Republic Project February 2024”)
- Online using the project payment link in your confirmation email\*
- Over the phone at (916) 774-7700\*

*\*Canadian tax-deductible payments must be made by check to the Maranatha Volunteers International (Canada) Association (address located at the end of this information packet) or by credit card over the phone in order to receive a receipt. At this time, Maranatha cannot issue Canadian tax-deductible receipts for credit card payments done online.*

If you are fundraising or receiving donations, please have donations sent directly to you or work with your local church treasurer to collect funds at the church and issue tax-deductible receipts. Do not have donors send individual, small checks directly to Maranatha. If you have questions regarding this process, please contact Maranatha.



## TYPICAL DAILY SCHEDULE

6:30 a.m.	Breakfast
7:15 a.m.	Group worship
8:00 a.m.	Depart for construction
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
4:00 p.m.	Return from work
6:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Group worship

The key word for mission trips is **FLEXIBILITY**. The above schedule is our plan, but it may be adjusted due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

# ABOUT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

- The Dominican Republic is located on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola.
- The island was colonized by Spain in the late 1400s, becoming the first European settlement in the Americas. In 1804, Spain ceded the western third of the island to the French, which became Haiti. The remaining land became the Dominican Republic.
- The island is beautiful, and 25% of the Dominican Republic's land and shoreline are preserved as national parks and reserves.
- The Dominican Republic has the largest economy in Central America and the Caribbean, fueled by tourism, agriculture, fishing, and mining.
- Merengue, a fast-paced music and dance, originated in the Dominican Republic from slaves who worked in the sugar beet fields.
- Baseball is by far the most popular sport throughout the country, and many famous players in American baseball leagues come from the Dominican Republic.



## Foreign Cash

The Dominican Republic uses the Dominican Peso, and has an exchange rate of approximately 55 pesos to \$1 USD (November 2023). This exchange can be made at the airport baggage claim or after you clear customs. Many countries offer better exchange rates for larger bills (\$50s and \$100s), so if you bring small bills, you may get a different exchange rate. Any cash you bring should be in newer, unmarked, and untornd bills. The project coordinator will also exchange money for you in increments of \$10 at the flat rate of 50 pesos per \$1 USD.

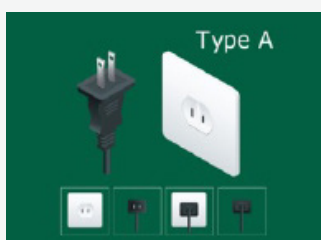
While some establishments accept credit and debit cards, most small shops only accept cash. It is wise to let your credit card company know the dates you will be traveling, so they don't block your card when you use it in a foreign country.

## Tipping

Your project coordinator will take care of paying guide tips on group excursions. If you feel like someone (excursion or hotel staff, etc.) has provided excellent service during your trip, you are more than welcome to show your gratitude with additional tips. If you have any questions during the project about whether or not tipping would be appropriate, your project coordinator or Maranatha in-country support staff can help you understand the local culture.

## Electricity

- **Current:** 110-120 volt AC
- **Outlet:** Type A



## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Accommodations
- Vegetarian Meals
- Ground Transportation
- Short-Term Insurance
- Portion of Construction Costs
- Portion of Outreach Activities
- T-shirt and Luggage Tags
- Local Excursion Activities, Guides, Entrances, Etc.

## ESTIMATE OF ADDITIONAL COSTS

- Flight to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic \$1,100 - 2,000
- Passport \$130 or \$110 for renewal

## Weather

Weather patterns can change suddenly, so Maranatha recommends volunteers check the 10-day forecast for the project area before traveling.

**Santo Domingo** | The Dominican Republic enjoys tropical weather year round. Rain showers are common, but usually come in bursts for short periods of time. In February you can expect temperatures in the mid 80s °F during the day and upper 60s °F at night. High humidity levels can make these temperatures seem much warmer. Be sure to stay well hydrated.



## TRAVEL INFORMATION

Please complete Maranatha's online registration and wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare.

If this is your first time traveling abroad (or you need a refresher course), you may want to check out Maranatha's International Traveler Guide (available at [maranatha.org](http://maranatha.org) under Volunteer Resources), which shares tips on everything from booking travel to communicating with those at home.

## Flights

Please be careful to follow these guidelines when booking your travel. If you arrive or depart outside of these posted windows, you may have long wait times at the airport or be responsible for paying the additional transportation costs for your individual airport transfer. If you have questions about your itinerary, please contact Maranatha prior to booking to avoid any additional charges.

### Project Only

**Arrive:** Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (SDQ) between 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 1

**Depart:** Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (SDQ) between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 11

## Arriving Early or Staying Late?

Some of you may choose to extend your travel before or after the project. Since our volunteers bring so much to the shared experience of the project, we ask that you participate in the entirety of the Maranatha project (during the advertised dates). Any additional travel outside of the Maranatha project should be scheduled for before or after the project dates to avoid mid-project interruptions. If you choose to add additional travel, you are responsible for making your own hotel and transportation arrangements for the time outside of the arrival and departure windows listed above. If you have any questions, feel free to call Maranatha at (916) 774-7700.

## Travel Resources

- **CI Azumano Travel:** 800-454-4099 or by email with Erle Dpenha or Azumano Team at [corporatetravel@ciazumano.com](mailto:corporatetravel@ciazumano.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).

## FACTS AND FIGURES

**Capital:** Santo Domingo

**Population:** 10.69 Million

**Language:** Spanish

**Climate:** Tropical maritime;  
little seasonal variation

**Religion:** Catholic 44%,  
Protestant 22%, None 29%

**Currency:** Dominican Peso

## Entry Requirements

Below are the requirements for U.S. and Canadian citizens. If you hold a passport from another country, please consult the Indian embassy or consulate in your home country for entrance requirements.

**Passport** | All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (August 11, 2024). 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](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.

**Dominican Republic E-Ticket Self-Declaration Form** | This form registers your travel and completes your immigration and customs forms. You should complete this form within 72 hours of departure at <https://eticket.migracion.gob.do/Auth/TravelRegister>.

## Traveling With Minors

**Birth Certificate** | Countries continue to make efforts to prevent child-trafficking, so some hotels and airports require proof of parent-child relationships, even if your child is a teenager. Maranatha recommends guardians bring a copy of their child's birth certificate and any other documents (guardianship papers etc.) to answer these questions.

**Parental Consent Form** | If a legal minor (under the age of 18 on the date you depart) is traveling without both parents or legal guardians, Maranatha requires a parental consent form. This form confirms that both guardians have consented to their child leaving the country with an appointed person and Maranatha. It also gives Maranatha permission to treat the child medically in case of an emergency.

You can find this form online at [www.maranatha.org/resources](http://www.maranatha.org/resources). Mail one notarized original to Maranatha and keep another notarized original with you as you travel. The form will ask for two appointees. The first will be the guardian traveling with the minor. The other will be Karen Godfrey, the project coordinator.

### Special Circumstances

**Divorced Parents:** Both parents must still sign the form. If one parent has sole legal and physical custody, provide a copy of the divorce decree stating as such.

**Deceased Parent:** Provide copy of death certificate.

**Legal Guardians:** Provide a copy of guardianship paperwork.

**Other Situations:** Contact Maranatha for guidance.

## Luggage Considerations

Please check with your airline or travel agent for luggage weight and piece allowances for each portion of your itinerary. Domestic flights often have tighter restrictions. In addition to your checked bags, airlines usually allow one carry-on item, as well as a personal item such as a purse or small day pack. However, each airline is different, so read through your airline's baggage policy before you head to the airport.

Sometimes bags are delayed, so please bring your personal medications and a day's worth of clothes and toiletries in your carry-on luggage, just in case. We recommend that you keep your carry-on luggage with you; do not "gate-check" your bags, especially if the bags have electronics or camera gear.

# HEALTH AND SAFETY

## Travel Safety

Understanding the culture and educating yourself about travel in the Dominican Republic is the best way to keep safe. Below are a few tips for you to consider.

- Leave valuables (expensive or sentimental) at home.
- Dress conservatively; a flashy wardrobe attracts more attention.
- Use a money belt or concealed pouch for passports and cash. Watch your wallet.
- Don't leave valuables unattended in open sight.
- Avoid marginal areas of cities, dark alleys, and crowds. Use caution and keep moving if strangers, including vendors, approach you on the street.
- Don't travel alone or at night.

## Worksite Safety

Maranatha has a very high safety record on the worksite. The safety equipment you'll need will depend on the project scope and what job you do (see packing list). Hard hats and closed-toe shoes are required on all job sites.

## Short Term Travel Insurance

All volunteers will be covered by a short-term insurance policy from the time they leave their home country until the time they arrive back in their home country. The policy does not have a deductible and covers accidents and illnesses. As with all insurances, some exclusions apply. Maranatha does not carry or maintain health, medical, workers compensation, or disability insurance coverage. The coverage amounts and details can be found at [www.maranatha.org/insurance](http://www.maranatha.org/insurance).

For volunteers extending their travel before or after a project, the insurance will start and end with the Maranatha project dates. If you would like to extend your coverage for your extra travel at your own expense, contact Maranatha.

You will receive a brochure, prior to your project, listing the policy number and contact information for assistance or emergencies during your travel.

## Medical Recommendations

While Maranatha does everything in our power to ensure the safety of our volunteers, it is also advisable to do your own research when it comes to the medical precautions. We recommend that you schedule a consultation with your physician or a travel clinic to discuss the medical risks in India and the ways to minimize them. If at any time during the project you start to feel sick, speak with the project medical professional and the project leader as soon as possible.

## VACCINES

### Tetanus

Required by Maranatha

### COVID-19

Recommended by CDC\*

### Typhoid

Recommended by CDC

### Hepatitis A

Recommended by CDC

### Anti-malarial Medication

Recommended by CDC

\*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## CONSTRUCTION SITE SAFETY RULES



## COVID-19 and Other Viruses

When traveling you may be exposed to viruses, such as the recent COVID-19 virus. We recommend a few simple tips to minimize your risk of getting sick:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Wash your hands often, with soap and water.
- If you don't have access to soap and water, use hand sanitizer.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces using disinfectant wipes.
- Wash your hands after shaking hands with others or handling cash.
- Get adequate sleep.
- Drink plenty of purified water.
- Try to eat a well-balanced diet.

## Malaria

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Santo Domingo province is considered to be at risk for malaria. There are different oral medications that can lower your risk of contracting malaria. You will need a prescription and each has different side effects and dosages, so speak with a doctor.

## Mosquitos and Other Insects

Mosquitos and other flying insects can carry a variety of diseases including malaria, chikungunya, zika, and dengue. Personal precautions are strongly recommended to lower the risk of being bitten.

- Use a bug repellent with a 30-50% concentration of DEET.
- Wear long sleeves, long pants, and closed-toe shoes when possible.
- Avoid areas of standing water.
- Avoid spending a lot of time outside during dusk and dawn.

## Food and Water

Food and water safety standards vary greatly from country to country, and we recommend that you exercise caution with the food and water you consume while abroad. Maranatha will provide purified water.

- Eat only food provided by Maranatha.
- Purchase only commercially packaged snacks, not from street stands.
- Drink only purified water and sealed juices and sodas.
- Do not drink items with ice cubes.
- Do not brush your teeth with tap water; use purified water.

## Allergies and Dietary Restrictions

Maranatha provides three vegetarian meals each day. We ask for your allergies on your registration form and will do our best to accommodate your needs. However, on large projects especially, it is harder for our cooks to accommodate special requests. If your diet is very restrictive (vegan, gluten free, etc.) we recommend that you bring items such as soy milk powder, gluten-free bread, etc. to supplement the meals provided by the cooks.

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Cultural Sensitivity

It's important to enter another culture with respect and understanding of their traditions. Cultural sensitivity also means we will respect Adventist culture in the Dominican Republic. Adventists in the DR tend to be more conservative than Adventists in the United States and Canada. During the project, we will be sensitive to this by dressing as modestly as possible. Pants and cap sleeves are preferred to shorts and tank tops. For church activities, women will need to have skirts that reach past the knees, and men are expected to wear ties if they are involved in the activities on the platform. Please be respectful as we observe their customs and visit their homes. Feel free to ask questions and rely on leaders to know what is appropriate or not. Out of respect we ask that you ask people for permission before taking photos or videos of them.



## Maranatha Lifestyle

Each mission trip is a unique experience, and during the project, there is a great need for flexibility. Volunteers on Maranatha projects come from a variety of backgrounds and lifestyles. As we all become one big family for two weeks, we will need to refrain from some of our personal desires and freedoms and adopt the lifestyle of the group.

On all of our projects we ask that volunteers refrain from using alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other non-prescription drugs during the trip.

Maranatha projects are open to individuals of all faith backgrounds, and we ask that all volunteers come into the project with an attitude of respect toward one another. During this trip we emphasize service opportunities that grow faith in God. On Maranatha projects, worship services are held on Sabbath (Saturday), and we ask all volunteers to participate in the experience with the group. While we do our best to make provisions to avoid extensive travel or utilizing restaurants on Sabbath, sometimes it is hard to avoid. Please be aware of this and if you have any questions, please speak with your project coordinator.

## HOW TO REGISTER

1. Complete online registration form
2. Check email for confirmation of acceptance
3. Make payment(s)\*
4. Book flights
5. Send itinerary and passport copy to Maranatha

\*If for any reason you need to cancel your participation, payments are refundable up until one month prior to the project (unless noted otherwise). Cancellations within 30 days of the project are subject to a \$150 per-person fee, and the remainder will be refunded depending on the project arrangements already made on your behalf.

## 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  
Association  
c/o V06494C  
PO Box 6494, Station Terminal  
Vancouver, BC V6B 6R3

# PACKING LIST

A checklist of recommended items to take with you on a Maranatha project.

## Work Wardrobe

- Long work pants (2-4 pairs)
- T-shirts and/or long-sleeved cotton shirts for work (5-7)
- Strong, flexible construction gloves (REQUIRED)
- Hard hat (REQUIRED)
- Handkerchief or bandana for neck protection
- Sunglasses or safety glasses
- Sturdy work shoes

## Tool List

*The more tools the group brings, the more likely it is that everyone can keep involved in the construction process.*

- Measuring tape (25')
- Box level (2-3') – one per family
- Block trowel (10-12") pie-shaped
- Marking pencils
- Lineman's pliers
- Painting supplies - roller and roller heads, roller pan, 1" or 2" cutting brushes
- Masonry line and line blocks - optional
- Rubber dish gloves - optional
- Block hammer - optional
- Paint rags - optional
- Blue painters tape - optional

## Items to Remember

- Maranatha t-shirt
- Passport
- Photocopies of your passport in checked baggage or on your device
- Copy of your airline ticket or itinerary
- Printed Dominican Republic e-Ticket QR code
- Minor Consent Form (for those under 18)
- Copy of final packet with project addresses
- 2 Water Bottles - One to keep in the hotel room and one to keep on your person
- Face mask(s) or covering(s)
- Personal prescribed medication (in carry-on) as well as items like Tylenol, Band-Aids, Pepto Bismol etc.
- Shoes and socks
- Underclothes
- Casual shirts and pants
- MEN - Dress shirt and tie for Sabbath
- WOMEN - Dresses and/or skirt and blouse with sleeves for Sabbath
- Hat for sun protection

- Sleepwear
- Shorts
- Light rain jacket
- Modest swimsuit
- Flip-flops or sandals
- Personal toiletries (soap, deodorant, etc.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Insect repellent (30% DEET or higher)
- Sunblock (SPF 30+)
- Lip balm (with sunblock)
- Bible
- Camera, batteries, and memory cards
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Washcloth
- Cash for meals in airports, souvenirs, or special projects that may come up

## Optional Items

- Lightweight daypack or similar bag
- Neck pillow/eye mask for flight
- Journal and pens
- Powdered Gatorade or equivalent Nuun or Camelback electrolyte tablets (for overcoming dehydration)
- Earplugs
- Small alarm clock
- Snacks
- Toilet paper or tissues
- Battery-run personal fan
- Small instrument you play
- Personal snorkel equipment
- Supplemental items for specific diets (gluten free, vegan, etc.)

## Optional Outreach Items

- Money for purchasing items locally (this helps the local economy)
- School supplies: pens, pencils, erasers, notebooks, backpacks
- Christian books and pamphlets
- Bibles and hymnals
- Group toys (jump ropes, soccer balls with pumps, etc.)
- Toothbrushes and toothpastes

## Requested Outreach Items

*You will receive an updated packing list closer to the project, which may include any special outreach requests from the local church or school.*

# THE MARANATHA STORE

## Buy Maranatha merchandise!

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

To order, visit [maranatha.org/store](http://maranatha.org/store) or call (916) 774-7700

*All prices are excluding sales tax and shipping.*

### Maranatha T-shirt \$10



This Maranatha shirt is a poly/cotton heather blend by Bella + Canvas. Color is "heather forest"; unisex sizing.

### Maranatha Sweatshirt \$25



This unisex pullover hoodie is remarkably soft with a loose fit that is versatile and lends itself to daily wear. Spun from a plush fabric that is made up of cotton and polyester fibers, this hoodie features an up-to-date fit, hood with white drawcords, kangaroo pocket, ribbed cuffs and waistband. Color is "Heather Navy"; unisex sizing.

### Caps \$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. Available in Khaki and Navy.

### Hard Hat \$13



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

**MARANATHA.ORG**

\*All confirmed volunteers on an International Maranatha Open Team receive a Maranatha t-shirt as part of their participation fee.

**MARANATHA**  
VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL

