



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

October 30 - November 5

Prison Ministry Trip

goGLOBAL Trips

Where will I go?

San Pablo, Dominican Republic



One of the poorest areas in the country of the Dominican Republic, Villa González (and specifically the housing project community of San Pablo) is home to more than 330 families. This community was established by the Dominican government several years ago after several families were displaced from their homes during Hurricane David. The average HOUSEHOLD income is \$100-\$150 US per month and each household is estimated at 6-8 people. We estimate that there are between 300-400 children (under age 18) living in the community. Drug use and prostitution are prevalent. Here are some sad statistics:

- 32% of Dominicans live in poverty
- 41% of Dominican marriages end in divorce
- The Dominican Republic has the 3rd highest growth rate in sex trafficking in the world
- 38% of Dominicans never finish high school
- 24% of Dominicans have a child before the age of 18
- 11% of Dominicans cohabit before the age of 15 and 40% before the age of 18
- Millions of Dominican children grow up without a father in the home; or with an inattentive father.

There is no clean water in the area and electricity is sporadic with only about 10-12 hours of

power per day. There are no schools or medical services in the area. The closest public school is a dangerous 30-minute walk on a busy freeway. The closest doctor or hospital is a 25-minute drive (and most people do not have cars or transportation).

Who is our partner in Dominican Republic?

Project Mañana International



Project Mañana has been working in the community of San Pablo since October 2012 and currently provides a nutritious meal to 371 children each day through their Nutrition Project. In addition, Project Mañana has distributed 1,087 water purification systems throughout the Dominican Republic; providing 59,513,250 gallons of clean water each year through our Clean Water Project.

In August 2014, Project Mañana opened the very first school in San Pablo and is currently providing a solid education through our Education Project to 210 children.

Project Mañana believes that prison should be a place of rehabilitation. Changing an inmate's heart is the first step in creating a productive and rehabilitated member of society. This project provides prison inmates with a first-hand experience of God's love through discipleship workshops.

In 2011, Project Mañana formed the Institute For Authentic Manhood™; and has assembled a team of experts who work directly with inmates and their families. The Institute also serves prison officials and men in various communities throughout the Dominican Republic. In 2017, Project Mañana expanded its services to incarcerated women by launching the Institute For Authentic Womanhood™.

The Prison Project is also home to the annual Returning Hearts Celebration; where inmates have the opportunity to spend the day with their children as we convert the prison yard into a fun carnival atmosphere.

How will I serve?



This trip is focused on prison ministry and “Returning Hearts” celebration.

As part of Project Mañana's Prison Project, the annual Returning Hearts Celebration is one of the most anticipated days of the year by inmates and their children. More than 500 people participate at the event held in the Dominican Republic!

A one-day event, the Returning Hearts Celebration converts the recreational yard of a maximum-security prison into a carnival atmosphere that promotes family values with rides, games, cotton candy, and great food!

Throughout the day, inmates who have graduated from Project Mañana's Institute for Authentic Manhood & Womanhood™ get the opportunity to spend the day with their children; with the purpose of fostering a closer and healthier family relationship and bond. Together, they enjoy playing, talking, and laughing; while the inmate has a relaxed environment to encourage their children and begin to demonstrate how they're making changes to their behavior. Our team will help organize this event and connect prisoners with their children and loved ones.

In addition, trip participants will serve in men's and women's prisons for prisoners participating in our partner's program.

Is this trip for men only?

No, this trip is both for men and women.

Women will have the opportunity to both visit the women's prison and take part in the "Returning Hearts Celebration"

What will I learn and experience on this trip?

You will experience a different culture. Food, architecture, roads, traditions and customs, lifestyle and ways of communication.

You will experience a church in another culture. We will join Sunday worship gathering with the locals and throughout the week you will have the opportunity to build relationships and interact with followers of Jesus from the Dominican Republic. We believe, that life change happens in relationships and understand that building personal relationships with followers of Jesus from another country, personal conversations between Christians of different cultures, sharing testimonies, praying for each other is very valuable and perhaps one of the most important components of every trip.

You will encounter God in a unique way. We will begin and end each day with a group devotional and prayer. Our desire is that serving others in different culture, interacting with believers from another country and experiencing God's Global Kingdom will help each

participant on the trip encounter God in a special and unique way. We call this experience “unique” because we are convinced that going beyond the limits of our knowledge and experience, leaving our comfort zone can make our faith deeper and our heart softer and more trusting to God

What will my schedule look like?

We will provide more detailed schedule later, but it will include visiting men’s and women’s prisons and participating in “Returning Heart” Celebration.

Where will I stay on this trip?

All participants will stay together in the ministry dormitory. You will have a clean room with air conditioning that you will share with other trip participants. We will have all meals together too.

What is the cost of this trip?

The cost for the trip is \$2,500.

This includes your flight, accommodation, food, transportation, and the costs of our ministry to the local population. You may need to bring some spending money for food on our travel days as well as any souvenirs or other things you would like to purchase. The balance must be paid before the trip begins.

Please note: our goal is that each team member fundraises the majority, if not all, of their trip cost. This will be done through individual fundraising efforts. The balance after fundraising efforts have concluded must be paid before the trip begins.

Can I fundraise for the trip?

Yes, absolutely.

We will provide all necessary tools to do it and process all donations through Calvary’s financial system. With this being said, **each trip participant is responsible to raise or pay for the costs associated with the trip.** For each trip, an online support-raising page is created that is available for each team member to send out to family, friends, or co-workers. The page will give an overview of the trip and ask people to consider supporting the trip through prayer and/or financial support. There will be a box to type your name and the ability for supporters to give by credit card.

Any support letter must include the following wording regarding financial support: “It is Calvary’s policy that contributions shall not be refunded. Should a particular person not participate in the trip, or should the trip be cancelled, all donations received for that trip shall be used to pay the expenses of other people participating in the trip, reallocated to other mission trips, or reallocated to the general fund, at the discretion of Calvary.”

How do I apply?

Fill out the goGlobal Trip application at <https://calvarywestlake.org/goglobal/>. Please make sure you select “Dominican Republic | Prison ministry Trip”. **The deadline for applications for this trip is April 1st, 2024.**

You will be contacted by our staff to follow-up on your application if needed and let you know whether you have been approved for the trip by Monday, April 15th.

If approved, a **\$200 deposit** is required to secure a spot on the team. **This deposit is due no later than Sunday, April 28th.** Payment can be made online at <https://calvarywestlake.org/goglobal/> or check made payable to Calvary Community Church with Dominican Republic Mission Trips, Fund #720 in memo.

Following the approved application and deposit, further instructions regarding fundraising and team training will be given at the April 28th meeting.

So what key dates do I need to know now?

- Monday, April 1st - application due date
- Sunday, April 28th - \$200 deposit due and first trip participants meeting

What documents do I need?

You need to have your passport, which is valid for 6 months after the trip to be admitted into the country. If it expires less than 6 months after the trip, your passport will not be considered valid.

To obtain a passport, you will need a certified birth certificate, two passport photos, and a driver's license. For further information about passport visit <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html>

US citizens do not need a visa to go to Dominican Republic.

What is about vaccination?

All travelers should be up to date on routine vaccinations before traveling. These vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus- pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and your yearly flu shot. Covid-19, Hepatitis A and B, Malaria, Typhoid Vaccines are recommended You can find more information following this link - <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/dominican-republic>

What is about insurance?

Personal health insurance is required for trip participation.

In addition to your own personal health insurance policy, travel health insurance will be purchased for each trip participant on international trips with a \$1,100,000 policy limit that is included in the trip fees. This insurance provides major medical benefits, emergency medical evacuation, Covid, and repatriation coverage that your primary health insurance may not cover for overseas claims.