

H.O.P.E Dominican Republic
Mission Trip Manual



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Dear Team Leader,

As we ponder the fate of those who have no relationship with Jesus Christ, our hearts are overwhelmed. Over 90% of Dominicans don't live for Christ. Another huge problem is that sex tourism has caused this nation to become the most visited Caribbean nation. More than 90% of the children of this country are exposed to violence on a daily basis and the average monthly salary is equivalent to \$200 USD.

The Dominican Republic shares the island of Hispaniola with the poorest country of the western hemisphere, Haiti. Haitians enter into the Dominican Republic each day in hope of a better life. Since the average Dominican struggles with poverty, the innumerable amount of Haitians has placed a heavy burden upon the country.

The realities of the difficulties we face on this beautiful Caribbean island propel us to serve our Caribbean neighbors with all of our heart. At **H.O.P.E Dominican Republic**, we are dedicated to **Help Others Pursue Eternity** through church planting, serving at risk children and youth and providing care for those caught in the sex industry.

Would you consider joining us on this exciting adventure of transformation? Each year, international teams serve with us on mission trips from 7 to 30 days. We customize trips for each team. A team can consist of one family or 50 individuals.

Your team would have the opportunity to assist us with construction projects, children or teen camps, training seminars, teaching opportunities, assisting during church services, outreaches to sex industry workers or sports tournaments. As previously stated, we would be happy to customize your trip.

In addition to working alongside us, you will also have the opportunity to experience the beauty of this wonderful island. We'll take you to rivers, mountains, beaches and souvenir shopping on our mountain. You will also have the opportunity to spend time visiting the homes of the people we serve. Your life and the lives of those on your team will forever be changed.

H.O.P.E Dominican Republic is a non-profit 501c3 organization. We currently have five churches in the Dominican Republic. We had to shut down our center for at-risk children during the pandemic, but we are in the process of re-opening. We are in the process of obtaining the necessary paperwork to open a children's home on our acreage in the mountains that lie between Santiago and Puerto Plata. Thank you in advance for considering us in your mission journey.

Many blessings,

Pastor Rubén M. Domínguez,
President H.O.P.E Dominican Republic

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H.O.P.E Dominican Republic
100 Airport Ave. E, Venice, FL 34285
www.hope4drnow.org

VOLUNTEER/SHORT TERM MISSIONARY APPLICATION

(PLEASE PRINT)

Date: _____

Name: _____ **Sex:** _____ **M** _____ **F**

Date of birth: _____ **Marital status:** _____ **S** _____ **M** _____ **D**

Address:

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Country:** _____

Zip code: _____ ***SSN:** _____

Home phone: (____) _____ **Work phone:** (____) _____ **Other:** (____) _____

Email: _____@_____

Please explain your salvation experience in detail: _____

How long have you been a member of your current church? _____

Are you active in your church's ministries? _____ **Yes** _____ **No/ How long** _____

Explain your role in your church's ministry _____

Name of Church _____

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Denomination _____

Church address and telephone number _____

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May we contact your ministry leader/Pastor? ____ Yes ____ No

If not, please explain _____

Ministry leader/Pastor contact information:

Name _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____ @ _____

Spanish language ability: ____ speak ____ read ____ write

Education	Name	Major/Degree	Graduation Date
High School			
Jr. College			
Tech. School			
Bible College			
Undergrad. School			
Grad. School			

Work Experience

POSITION	COMPANY	FROM	TO

Have you been convicted of a felony within the past five years? ____ Yes ____ No

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If yes, please explain:

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List any hobbies or interests: _____

Have you done volunteer or short term missionary work at another ministry?

_____ Yes _____ No

If yes, where and what did you do? _____

What type of work would you like to do here? _____

What skills, training, or knowledge do you wish to utilize here? _____

Why do you want to serve with **H.O.P.E Dominican Republic**?

Where did you hear about **H.O.P.E Dominican Republic**?

When are you available to volunteer and for how long? _____

Time of day _____ of week _____ How often per week/month _____

For how long? _____

For short term missionary service: Length of service _____

Projected service dates: _____

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**H.O.P.E Dominican Republic
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Are you planning to serve along with your family? _____ Yes _____ No

**Please list each family member's name and age _____

****Children aged 15 and above must complete a separate application. Spouse must also complete a separate application.**

If you have a disability, what accommodation would you need to do this volunteer position?

Please provide 2 personal and 1 professional reference:

Name and phone number personal or professional relationship

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I hereby attest that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Today's date

Applicants 17 years old and younger must have a parent/guardian complete the following:

I _____ give my son/daughter _____ the permission to serve as a volunteer or short term missionary with **H.O.P.E Dominican Republic** for the duration of _____.

Name and Address _____

Relation to participant _____ Phone _____

Additional Remarks _____

(Parent's/guradian Signature)

(Date)

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By signing this form, I declare that I am the legal parent/guardian of the minor child listed above and authorized to grant such permission.

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***Those desiring to work with children must agree to a background check.**

I _____ understand that **H.O.P.E Dominican Republic** will execute a background criminal and sex offender registry check to ensure the safety of the children that I will be in contact with during my volunteer/short term missionary service time. I also understand that my application will be approved contingent upon the results of this investigation.

Signature of applicant

Date

*****Complete this portion once applicant has been approved******

In case of emergency, please contact:

Name: _____

Phone: Home(____)_____ Work(____)_____ Other(____)_____

Email: _____@_____

Medical information we should be aware of in an emergency (allergies, special medications, &/or conditions):

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www.hope4drnow.org
info@hope4drnow.org

CAREFULLY READ THE FOLLOWING, THEN INITIAL OR SIGN WHERE INDICATED. PLEASE RETURN THE FOLLOWING FORMS WITH YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION.

Mission Statement: We commit to assist Dominican churches in equipping them for ministry and to provide safety and restoration for abused and exploited minors.

I understand H.O.P.E's mission _____ (initials)

Vision: That everyone in the Dominican Republic would personally encounter God thus highlighting their destiny and producing an atmosphere that is filled with faith, hope and love.

I understand H.O.P.E's vision _____ (initials)

***Statement of Faith**

The Bible

The Bible is the inspired and only infallible Word of God...and is the source for doctrine, instruction, correction and reproof.

One True God

There is one true God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.

The Lord Jesus Christ

In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ (the eternal Son of God who became man, without ceasing to be God), in His virgin birth, in His sinless life (to redeem sinful man), in His miracles, in His atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in the blessed hope, the literal, physical, imminent return of Christ to the earth for overcoming believers.

Man

Man was created in the image of God but by voluntary disobedience mankind fell from innocence and purity into sinfulness and spiritual death.

Salvation & the Atonement

Christ's vicarious death / substitutionary sacrifice on the cross paid the penalty for the sins of the whole world, but its benefits are only applicable to those who trust (believe as to obey) in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the redeeming blood of Christ. Regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential to personal salvation. We are saved by grace through faith and that not of

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ourselves; it is the gift of God. This saving faith should produce an active lifestyle of loving obedience and service to Jesus our Savior. Divine healing, redemption, freedom, deliverance, salvation and hope are available through the redemptive work of Christ on the cross. Our new life in Christ includes the privileges of adoption and inheritance in the Kingdom of God's beloved Son.

Perseverance of the Saints

The Christian life is filled with trials, tests and warfare against God's spiritual enemy. For those abiding in Christ until their deaths or His return, the promises of eternal blessing in the presence of God are sure. To remain faithful through all circumstances of life requires dependence on the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit indwelling the Christian to deny self and personal desires and passions.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God, who was active in the Old Testament and given to the Church in fullness at Pentecost. According to Acts 2:4/Luke 11:13, He empowers believers who ask for service and witness. He cleanses man from the old nature, and conforms us to the image of Christ. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit, subsequent to conversion, releases the fullness of the Spirit and is evidenced in a person's life by the fruit (changes in his life, including a renewed love for God and people, a commitment to the scriptures and holy living) and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The Church

The Church of Jesus Christ is the universal, spiritual body of believers from every tribe, tongue, kindred and race of peoples, and is indwelt by God through the Holy Spirit and divinely empowered to fulfill ministry and her Great Commission on earth. The goal of the Church is to make disciples of all nations and to present the saints complete in Christ. In the best interest of the life of the Church, Scriptural patterns of discipline are to be practiced and oversight for Church discipline, individual and corporate, is exercised by the leadership of the Church.

The Second Coming of Christ & the Final Judgment

The second coming of Christ is personal and imminent. In the resurrection and final judgment of both the saved and the lost (ALL will stand some day before their Creator and give an account), those born-again to everlasting life and those who reject Christ as Savior to everlasting damnation / torment.

Christian Growth

Christian growth can only be realized by faith in the promises of God.

Tithes & Offerings

God loves a cheerful giver. We believe that the method ordained of God for the support and spread of His kingdom on earth is by giving of tithes and free-will offerings.

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Marriage

Marriage is God-ordained. “The Creator made them male and female, and said, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh” (Matthew 19:4-5). Marriage is to be an exclusive relationship, a lifelong faithful union between a man and a woman. This relationship between a husband and wife should parallel the relationship between Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:23-30).

Water Baptism

We believe water baptism by immersion, after repenting of one’s sins and receiving the free gift of salvation, is an outward sign of an inward work.

Holy Communion

We believe Holy Communion (the Lord’s Supper) is a symbolic remembrance of Christ’s suffering and death for our salvation. Communion is ordained by Jesus and gives believers a consistent opportunity to examine ourselves – to repent and be reconciled to the Lord and one another.

*Taken from City Church International, Dallas, TX www.citychurchintl.org

I agree with the above statement of faith _____

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Values:

1. **Christ centered**-we believe that human services without Christ simply feed the body while neglecting the essence of man's spirit. We as ministry leaders fail when we don't give those we serve the opportunity to know Christ and to grow in Him.
2. **Integrity**-we believe that high morals and godly standards ought to be lived in all we do. Honesty and soundness of ideas must be filtering agents for all projects.
3. **Collectivism**-we believe that a focus on the group as a whole is more valuable than a focus on self.
4. **Equality**-we believe that each ministry member brings value, talent, skills and resources to this ministry, regardless of their job function.
5. **Empowerment**-we believe that leaders should be ready to listen to the ideas of those we serve and lead. These ideas must be filtered by God's word and the ministry's plan. As these ideas are implemented, those we serve will flourish in God's call for their own lives.
6. **Servant hood**-we believe that Christ commands us to serve those who would be considered the least in our society. As they are equipped then sent to equip others, societies will be transformed.
7. **Families**-we believe that strong families make up strong communities. Our intent is to boost the well-being of families as we provide safe havens for orphans, abandoned and abused children.

Do you understand H.O.P.E's values? _____

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Dress Code Policy:

1. Blouses must not be excessively tight fitting.
2. Cleavage must be covered.
3. Shorts and skirts cannot exceed 10 inches above the knee.
4. Slacks, skirts or dresses must not be excessively tight fitting.
5. Our ministry t-shirt is appropriate attire for ministry outings and for daily activities.
6. For the sake of modesty, one piece modest bathing suits are required for female staff. We also prefer that female staff wear swim shorts or a swim skirt and a tank top to cover their bathing suit if necessary. Male staff must use modest swimming trunks, preferably shorts.
7. Hair should always be neat and clean.
8. Facial hair should always be neat and clean.
9. No vulgar expressions on clothing.
10. Men must wear shirts at all times while in public.

_____ (Initials)

Dating Policy:

1. Dating is not allowed amongst team members unless already determined.
2. Dating is not allowed between team members and Dominican nationals.
3. If under aged team members are already in a relationship, open displays of affection are prohibited.

Signature _____

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For short term mission trips:

***Costs: \$30/person per night**

Cost includes 3 meals per day, lodging, transportation within the Dominican Republic for ministry purposes.

Not included: Airport pick up and drop off, any DR taxes, excursions, fees for ministry projects, excursions, and meals and entertainment that are not a part of the ministry.

All monies must be turned in two weeks prior to service.

I agree to raise my support. I understand that I am responsible for airport pick up and drop off, any DR taxes, excursions, fees for ministry projects, meals and entertainment that are not a part of the ministry..

Signature

*Please discuss hardship with us. We do not want anyone to miss out on this opportunity because of financial difficulty.

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Some things for mission trip participants to consider:

Please remember that you will be living amongst a different culture. It is important for you to adjust to the culture and to not expect nationals to become or to think like you. Therefore, be sure to follow all of the rules or advice given to you by your hosts. Please feel free to ask any questions or voice any concerns you may have.

It is also important to understand that you will be expected to work while here. Please come ready to serve with a good heart.

Be sure to help your hosts in any way. They live here; you are only here for a short time, so please come ready to hold them up as their lifelong commitment can be difficult at times. Lastly, remember that you are coming to uplift the vision of **H.O.P.E Dominican Republic**, thus please respect our leadership and authority during your visit.

Travel Information:

Be sure to check with your local health department for vaccinations. We may be exposed to areas where malaria is prevalent, thus it is up to you to use the preventive medication.

When purchasing tickets, it may be easier to purchase group tickets with your chosen airline.

Check with your private health insurance for overseas coverage.

Be sure to fill out your [e-ticket](#) prior to your airport arrival.

Be sure to hold on to all baggage claim tags because the airport officials may not allow you to pick up your bags without them.

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Sample Trip Agenda:

Monday, August 6 Day One:

Arrival

Orientation

Worship in the evening

Tuesday, August 7 Day Two

Breakfast at 8 a.m.

Worship at 9 a.m.

Camp preparation at ministry center during the day

In the evening, go out into the Los Cerritos neighborhood to meet some of the campers

Worship before bed

Wednesday, August 8 Day Three:

Breakfast at 8 a.m.

Worship at 9 a.m.

Visit our center in Cien Fuegos and some of the camper's homes from that neighborhood

In the evening, finish camp prep

Thursday, August 9 Day Four:

Travel to camp site early in the morning to prepare prior to the campers arrival

Camp begins early that evening

Friday, August 10 Day Five:

Camp

Saturday, August 11 Day Six:

Camp's last day

Return to Santiago

Sunday, August 12 Day Seven:

Special church service for campers and parents

Monday, August 13 Day Eight:

Day off-Excursion

Tuesday, August 14 Day Nine:

Departure

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Menu Items:

Plantains (boiled, fried or baked), Fried Cheese, Chicken (Baked, fried or stewed), Stewed beef, Grilled cheese, Yucca (boiled or fried), Garden salad, Rice and beans, Potatoes (mashed, baked), Sandwiches and Dominican Salami.

IDEAS FOR FUND-RAISING

H.O.P.E Dominican Republic believes that it is a privilege to bring the love of Christ to the lost. As you prepare for your trip, be sure to remain in an attitude of prayer and solicit at least 10 prayer partners to agree with you in intercession.

Prepare a letter detailing your trip. You will find a sample letter in this manual. You can also search online for sample mission trip letters. Send the letter to at least 70 people. Consider friends at church, family members, your physician, your lawyer or your grocer. If each person gives you a \$30 donation, you will have \$2,100 for your trip!

You should then follow up with each person who received your letter with a telephone call. During the call, remind them of the contents of your letter. Terminate your call with a confirmation of a donation. You will find a sample telephone conversation in this manual.

You can also have one on one meetings with potential donors. In these meetings, you would discuss the agenda of your trip. You will also detail the costs of the trip and confirm a donation.

Groups can do car washes together to raise funds. Be sure to sell car wash tickets prior to the car wash. This way, you will make extra money as cars drive by on the actual day of the wash.

Groups can also have yard sales or bake sales.

Use your imagination and ask God for creativity. Remember that this is for Him, thus He will provide.

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Sample Letter:

Dear Friend, (Make it personal, use their name here)

I am excited that I will be a part of a mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Our team is scheduled to be in the Dominican Republic on ***insert date*** and will be ***briefly explain ministry work***. I am very happy with the opportunity to use my experience ***insert what you will be doing*** in this needy area of the world.

Our team will be busy for the next several months learning about the Dominican Republic and preparing specific programs and materials for our ministry time there.

I would like to invite you to also be part of our team. We need people who will pray for us as we prepare and while we are on the field. We also need people who can partner with me financially.

It will cost ***insert cost for trip*** for me to go to the Dominican Republic.

Would you pray about being a part of my support team? All financial contributions are tax-deductible.

Checks should be made payable to _____ and the envelope (not the check) should be clearly designated with both the trip name and my name. If the check is designated with my name, according to IRS regulations, you will not be able to use it as a tax deduction. Because we have to meet deadlines for airfare deposits and other arrangements, I need to have adequate financial support raised as soon as possible.

I will be giving you a call soon to discuss this trip. In the meantime, I pray that you will seek God for an answer. We plan to keep our prayer team regularly updated with prayer requests.

Thank you for praying about being part of our team.

Love,

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Sample telephone call:

You- Hello Charlie, how are you? This is Renee.

Charlie-Hello Renee, I am fine.

You- Charlie, I am calling to follow up on the letter that I recently sent you about my trip to the Dominican Republic. Did you have a chance to read it.

Charlie-Yes, I read. (If he says no, you can still continue...just reword it a bit)

You-Great Charlie. As I said in the letter, I will be taking a trip to the Dominican Republic to (state what your trip will detail). It will cost me (state price). Charlie, will you be willing to give a donation for this trip?

Charlie-Yes, I would love to help.

You-Thanks Charlie. Will you please send the donation to the address in the letter.

Charlie-Sure, God bless you.

You- God bless you too.

If the caller says no, simply thank them for their time and ask them to pray.

This is not as hard as it seems. God will instruct you as you go.

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I have volunteered to participate with **H.O.P.E Dominican Republic**. I have recognized that participation on a trip of this nature may be hazardous or dangerous. Therefore, I am, for myself, my heirs, executor and/or administrator, remise and releasing and forever discharging **H.O.P.E Dominican Republic** and all its officers, agents, servants and employees, acting officially or otherwise, from any and all reason of injury, damage (including property damage to any of my belongings), loss or death which may occur from any cause including, but not limited to any accident and/or occurrence while participating individually or with others while on this Mission Trip/Volunteer service. I further understand that the release herein incorporates each and every provision of the application packet.

In consideration of my participation on this Mission Trip/Volunteer service, I hereby irrevocably consent to and authorize the use, publication, transmission and reproduction of my name, likeness and image, and any information listed above in any and all media worldwide, by **H.O.P.E Dominican Republic**, or anyone authorized by or acting on behalf of **H.O.P.E Dominican Republic**, for promotional, fund-raising, advertising, marketing and/or public relations purposes.

The information may be used by **H.O.P.E Dominican Republic** in the regular course of business, but will not be disseminated to others except if required by law.

_____ **Date** _____
Participant Signature

Parental Consent/Parent Name *Please Print*

_____ **Date** _____
Parent Signature *Required for participants under age 18*