



**An International Outreach of**  
Trinity Church  
33 Center Road, Woodbridge CT 06525  
[www.trinityefc.com/trinitycares](http://www.trinityefc.com/trinitycares)

# **2012 DR Mission Trip**

## **Information Packet**

### **with Preliminary Application Form**



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## **Thank you for considering joining us on our next Missions Trip!**

Please carefully read the following information about Trinity CARES and about our next Missions Trip. If you decide that you are interested in attending, please complete the Preliminary Application on the last page, and return it to the Trinity Church office in a sealed envelope marked: "2012 DR Missions Trip."

### **TCI Missions Trip Information**

Dates	June 23-30, 2012
Destination	Mt. Zion Church community Consuelo, San Marcos, Dominican Republic
Purpose	Outreach, Medical/Dental, Construction, English as a Second Language (ESL)
Preliminary Applications Due	February 5, 2012
Final Applications Due	February 19, 2012
Team Selection	March 4, 2012
Estimated Cost	\$1,250 per person
Deposit Required	\$400 within 30 days of selection
Fundraising Opportunities	Group and Individual support for fundraising
Leaders	Miles Ahrens, Missions Trip Leader Seeking leaders for each ministry team

### **Overview**

We will go to Consuelo, Dominican Republic, not only as representatives of Trinity Church and Trinity CARES International (TCI) but most important, we go as representatives of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is not a vacation trip but an opportunity to serve the Lord by serving others. We hope to continue to build personal relationships with our friends at the Mount Zion Church and are excited that you have an interest in sharing in this adventure.

### **Training**

Cross-cultural experiences are much different from any experience you've ever had before, especially if this is your first time visiting another culture. We believe that having you prepared both individually and as a team to serve the Lord in the Dominican Republic is very important. In fact, we would not want to send you to the field without preparation.

We take training seriously because you can have a negative experience if you are not prepared. You are not going alone; you are going with a team. It is exciting to share such an experience with other people, yet it can be very difficult if you are not prepared as a team. Your team will need to think, act, and work together as one body. The only way to accomplish this is to begin before you leave.

Everything we have prepared for your training is applicable to a short-term experience. It will more than likely make the difference between a good experience and a bad one. Preparation is the purpose of our three training sessions. EVERY TRAINING SESSION IS IMPORTANT. You are using considerable time and energy, as well as resources for this trip. Let's maximize these resources for the Lord.



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### **Expectations of Team Members**

- Read your manual in its entirety.
- Attend all three (3) training sessions *before* and one (1) debriefing session *after* the trip, as scheduled by your team leader.
- Complete Preparation Assignments as outlined in the training sessions. These assignments are for your benefit, the benefit of the team, your leader(s), and the people whom you will be serving.
- Follow your Team Covenant while on your short-term missions trip.
- Financially keep your obligations as outlined by Trinity Cares International.
- Pray for yourself, the team, and those whom you will serve.

### **Expectations of Team Leaders**

- To be spiritually prepared and humble in leadership.
- To be culturally prepared and have a functional knowledge of the culture and its customs.
- To be logistically prepared and responsible to coordinate logistics on the field.
- To be prepared for the unexpected; think ahead on everything and have alternate plans.
- To be aware of needs. Team Leaders will attempt to be aware of the needs of their team and for those we go to serve. They cannot meet all needs but they are especially responsible for the needs of their team.
- To be a spiritual leader on the field. Team Leaders will be an example of spiritual maturity and have team devotions during the trip.
- To be a communicator with their team. Team Leaders will pass on information to their team on a timely basis before leaving and on a daily basis while on the field.
- To be a communicator and cooperate with other Team Leaders. Team Leaders will work together as a leadership team with the Mission Trip Leader.
- To be responsible for all aspects of the training. Team Leaders will schedule the team training sessions as well as be prepared for each session. They will debrief the team while on the field and plan and schedule follow-up meetings and team reunions.
- To be a strong leader when traveling. Traveling safely is one of the biggest jobs for a team leader. Keeping a group together and arriving together can be quite a challenge.
- To be a dependent prayer warrior. God is more interested in our relationship with Him than He is with the work we try to accomplish. Team Leaders will pray in dependence upon God for themselves, other Team Leaders, their team members, the people of the Dominican Republic, and the logistics!



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## **Insurance**

To protect their investment in planning and fundraising, all Trinity Cares International team members are required to purchase Travel Insurance. Also, all team members must have adequate overseas medical insurance. While most health insurance policies may cover some international expenses; they are generally inadequate and likely will not cover such things as emergency medical evacuation back to the U.S. Low cost temporary travel health insurance designed specifically for such a purpose is included in cost estimate, as is the cost of coverage for Travel Insurance. More information will be provided during team training.

## **Financial Requirements**

We estimate the cost of the trip to be \$1,250 per person. This includes airfare, housing, transportation, travel insurance, food, background check fee, and training expenses.

“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21). We believe that you should be personally involved financially in your trip, and you are responsible for raising your entire per person cost. Trinity Cares will support you in your individual fundraising efforts, and you will be invited to participate in any group fundraising efforts, where 80% of the donations you secure are applied to the cost of your participation in the trip.

A deposit of \$400 is required 30 days after the team is selected. These funds will be used toward advance purchase of airline tickets and other expenses necessary to be paid in advance of the trip; and as such, this deposit is non-refundable.

## **Application Process**

The first step in starting the Process is to fill out the Team Member Preliminary Application form, which is the last page of this document.

After review by the Missions Trip Leader, a more comprehensive Final Application must be completed. This document includes:

- Personal information section
- Background Check Release Form – Trinity Church requires background checks for anyone in leadership or working with children or around children. All information will be held in the strictest confidence. Should any irregularities show up during your background check, you will be notified immediately and privately.
- Release of Liability - This form must be signed and notarized. Please read this form carefully and access any additional material referenced on the form before signing.
- Statement of Faith - We expect anyone going on a missions trip with Trinity Cares International to agree to this basic set of beliefs.
- Doctrinal Questionnaire - Please answer this simple multiple-choice questionnaire and submit it with your Statement of Faith and other application forms.
- Minors wanting to attend must complete other forms – contact the Missions Trip Leader

Applications are available at <http://www.trinityefc.com/trinitycares.php>



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## **Passport**

This is an official booklet giving proof of citizenship. It is issued by the U.S. government if you are a U.S. Citizen. It is necessary for entering foreign countries and being readmitted to your home country. If you don't have a current passport this must be your first priority - apply for a passport right away as it can take weeks to complete the process.

You may apply for a Passport online, at US Postal Service offices, and other Government offices.

Check out <http://travel.state.gov/passport> for complete information.

**All team members should have their passport or should already have applied for one when applying for team membership.** Passports must be valid six months past your intended departure date from the country you are visiting. You may be refused entry into the country if your passport's expiration date does not meet this requirement.

## **Health History Form**

This form is filled out in advance of the trip and held confidentially by the team leader. This is for your protection in case of an emergency on the field. If you are unconscious, your team leader will need to be able to tell your caregivers about your health history, any medications you are on, any allergies you have, or any other special medical conditions you have. To maintain your health confidentiality, fill out this form as completely as possible, then place it in a sealed envelope with your name and "Health History Form" written on the outside. Give this to your team leader. If there is an emergency on the field that requires them to open this envelope, this information could save your life. Lord willing, the information contained in this envelope will never be needed and can be returned to you unopened at the end of your trip.

## **Immunizations**

Travel to foreign countries entails the risk of infection. Immunizations reduce the risk and increase confidence in an unfamiliar environment. Immunizations are sometimes administered with time intervals between doses, so advance planning is required.

On the last trip, the following immunizations were required:

- Tetanus/Diphtheria (Td or DtaP)
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B

For more information, we recommend you go to the Center for Disease Control website at:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/travel>



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### **What to Expect While on the Trip**

The best approach on any Missions Trip is to have very low expectations about comfort and convenience. In this way, you are never disappointed and are pleasantly surprised if things work out better than you expected. This positive result is exactly what we experienced on our first trip in March 2011.

You will be traveling internationally with all of the time demands and inconvenience inherent in getting you, your team, and your luggage to the airport at least two hours before departure. You will spend a lot of time standing on line at security, Customs and Immigration on both sides of the borders you cross.

You will be arriving in a country that is unlike New England in almost every way imaginable. The climate, roads, modes of transportation, people, and food provide a refreshing change and a new perspective for first-time visitors.

Our team is partnered with the people of Good Samaritan Hospital in La Romana. They are an incredible blessing for us as they coordinate transportation, lodging, meals, and other support such as translators.

The dormitory style accommodations are spartan, but clean. You may not be used to sleeping in a city environment but will soon become accustomed to it.

The commute to Consuelo takes about 30-40 minutes. You will drive through some incredibly beautiful country and be a first-hand witness to some very poor living conditions.

When you arrive at the Mt. Zion Church compound, you will realize that your work there is making a difference, not just for the members of the church but for the entire community around it. No matter what work it is that you engage in there, you will have strong local support in doing it, and will feel the love and hope that Mt. Zion represents in the name of Christ.

As the trip progresses, you will feel yourself becoming more and more comfortable in your surroundings, and may even feel liberated from the many distractions we are surrounded by in our home environments.

There is time for fun, too, on our trips, and you will have the opportunity to spend a little time enjoying some of the most beautiful beaches in the world.



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### **Team Member Preliminary Application**

Complete and return this form to the Trinity Church office in a sealed envelope marked "2012 DR Missions Trip."

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### **Yes, I am interested in being a Team Member on the DR Missions Trip, June 23-30, 2012!**

I understand that I am responsible to raise my own funds to cover the cost of this trip, and that TCI will provide guidance and assistance in fundraising. I understand that I am required to complete a Final Application which includes Personal Information, Background Check Release Form, Release of Liability, Statement of Faith and Doctrinal Questionnaire. I understand that immunizations are required and that I will be asked to complete a health history questionnaire for my protection on the trip.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **Please indicate below which Teams you are interested in serving on:**

Outreach \_\_\_\_\_  
Medical/Dental \_\_\_\_\_  
Construction \_\_\_\_\_  
ESL \_\_\_\_\_

### **Would you be willing to serve as a Team Leader for your selected team?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_  
I'll pray about it! \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you! Your Preliminary Application will be reviewed and you will be contacted soon.**