

# Stories From The Mission Field



(Our Team Before Sunday Evening Services at 1st Baptist Church Puerto Plata)

**Our desire is that through reading these testimonies you might be encouraged in your walk with Christ. We also pray that hearing about a group of people with one purpose and one goal...to share the love of Christ with people in the Dominican Republic...might encourage you to step out in faith into the mission field. Oasis Church currently has mission opportunities in Yuma, Ciudad Morelos, Rocky Point Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. So...I've got just one question for you .....  
.....What's stopping you from going on mission with us?**

## **Peter Cheung**

There were several things which made an impression on me during this trip. On my first DR trip, I felt that the medical clinics really were not doing anything for the people. Several pills for blood pressure, a few Motrin but nothing that would make a significant impact on the patient's long term health. I felt that we really didn't accomplish very much or help the Dominicans in a meaningful way. Obviously, I was focused on their physical health at that time.

On this trip, I had a totally opposite reaction after the clinics. I tried to focus on and emphasize the spiritual aspect of why we were there. Despite doing essentially the same thing as on the previous trip, I felt we accomplished way more this time, but in the spiritual realm. It's amazing that trivial gestures such as giving out a few Tylenol or cough syrup, when combined with the message of the Gospel add up to become something much more meaningful. I learned it was important to look from God's perspective at the things we do in order to see their true worth.

The other thing that I was most impressed with was our team. What a great bunch of people! Their eagerness to evangelize, their enthusiasm during the services and their frequent and compassionate prayers for the Dominicans and for each team member was what made the mission an exceptional experience and success. They truly demonstrated that "first love" that one has when a Christian is newly saved. They were bold and unashamed to share the Gospel. I was very humbled by the testimonies that they gave and the work that they did.

## **Blankita Banda**

The trip to the Dominican Republic was awesome. It was my first time traveling on an airplane and to another place that wasn't Mexico, Arizona, or California.

I met a lot of wonderful people and 18 wonderful teammates. At the end of each day we would meet at Augie's room and we would talk about the day and accomplishments. It was as if we concentrated every prayer and strength to recharge our batteries.

I was so excited be on the trip and helping out people. As the time came I was mentally getting ready to see people crying and being desperate for help physically and economically (resources). I thought, "How are people going to want to hear about God in the situation they're in?" They had so many things to complain about (houses, no water, or the lack of primal necessities). Most of them had malnutrition and other sicknesses. Besides, none of the places we visited had AC when it came to the church services and the environment was not that one of a church. Nonetheless, when we got there we invited people to church and told them about Christ. I was shock to see how they were thirsty and willing to listen to a word of hope that had nothing to do with riches in this world. When we sang or just praised God for anything the people rejoiced and the children laughed and jumped. It was then when I understood that the people live for each day when they have God by their side. They don't worry as much about tomorrow when they know that God is in control and the He will provide. Confusingly enough people like me, have more than what we need, tend to think that we are in control but we are not at peace. What the people from the DR showed me was that the worst sickness in the world is living without Christ but if they have Him, even though they may lack more than what they would hope to have, they have a treasure up in heaven. However the people who know Christ are not

very many and I just get so excited at the thought of how a powerful prayer can change one's life and its perspectives for what's truly valuable.

This trip was definitely the best experience that I have ever had and it made me want to go on the next trip.

### **Richard Hassall**

It was a blessing to be part of such a great team, especially seeing the energy and passion of the younger members. The physical needs in the DR are obvious and we were able to help a little, but Christ is the only thing that will make a lasting difference. It was amazing that there were so many professions of faith and my prayer is that these individuals will regularly attend a Bible believing Church and that the other `seed` we sowed fell on `good soil.`

### **Elena Cheung**

The mission trip to the Dominican Republic was such an amazing experience. I remember arriving to the first village and seeing the poverty all around. I was definitely intimidated to get out of the bus and interact with complete strangers, but the nerves quickly went away. I fell in love with all the kids and wanted to take them all home with me. They were all so loving and grateful for anything you could give them. I remember my favorite little girl that I met gave me a little wooden china doll. She had absolutely nothing and decided to give me the one little treasure she owned. I also was able to witness a nineteen year old boy accept Christ into his heart. It brought tears to my eyes as Irene and I rushed up to give him a hug and welcome him into the family. Nine days with the Oasis team was a blast, and I am so grateful to have made friends that have such a passion for sharing God's Word. I look up to each and every one of them and hope that I may one day go again.

### **Irene Quintero**

The Mission trip to the Dominican Republic was a wonderful experience that I would encourage each and every one of the members in Oasis Church to experience. I learned that there is no better way to comprehend a situation but to witness it through one's own eyes. One of the encounters that impacted me the most was when I translated for Dr. Peter in the church at Pancho Mateo. We had been working all day giving medical checkups as well as medicine to the people and we noticed that our last patient came in. Dr. Peter started to do the check up and said, "Tell me what we can do for you?" The boy immediately started to tell us what was physically wrong with him. Peter then said that the medicine that we would be offering him would only last for a few days or weeks. He explained that Jesus Christ was the only medicine that could give him eternal life and a peace that goes beyond all understanding. When Dr. Peter shared this with the young boy, this his face immediately lit up; I had a feeling that he already had a relationship with God, and sure enough he said that Jesus Christ was the only way to eternal life. After a few minutes Peter went to grab the medicine that could seize the boy's pain. When I was left alone with him I asked him if he lived near the church. "I live right next to it", he replied. Then I asked him, "Do you live with your mother?" At that he replied that he lived with his grandmother. Of course I had to be a nosy girl and said, "What about your mother?" I had no idea that the words that were about to come out of the young boy's mouth would be so powerful and choking. The boy replied that she had been killed because she did not give up a room from her home to a man. When the boy finished telling me about this incident and others as well, I wanted to burst into tears. I had never met a boy as young as him that had been through so many things as the boy that sat in front of me. When the boy left I

began to talk to God and asked, "How can people have such anger and be so cruel to kill an innocent mother merely for a room?" On that day I could not understand why that boy contained complete peace and happiness even with all the things he had gone through. Nonetheless, I finally figure out that all his peace was because he has Jesus Christ as his lord and savior.

Because of the conversation I had with that young boy at Pancho Mateo I learned that I am a blessed girl and that God has an amazing plan for each person that wants to follow him. In the course of this experience I learned that there are people around the world in need but sometimes we only see these people in our televisions and don't comprehend to the fullest; however when you personally encounter it, it becomes a wonderful experience to know that you are there to help people and share what Jesus Christ has done for them in the cross. God is calling us to not only bring his word to people in the Dominican Republic, put also in our neighborhoods, in our cities and to our families. God has placed us in this earth to do huge and amazing things! I encourage the entire congregation to get up and do what God has called us to do (Matthew 28:19-20) and that is to make disciples of ALL nations.

### **Missy Schmehl-Hassall**

Mark 16:15 – `Go into all the world and preach the Gospel`. This is a command, but doing it as I see it is both an honor and a privilege.

### **Caleb Cheung**

Going to the Dominican Republic this summer was a life changing experience. I was able to grow closer to the other people who attend Oasis, and to really experience what it means to have nothing. The people of the Dominican live in very poor conditions, and the politicians are corrupt. They have limited access to water, food, and sometimes clothes. They lived in open houses with sheets for doors. I came to learn just how spoiled Americans are, where we take these things for granted.

Every day, whether we were playing with kids or prescribing medicine, everyone had a job. Playing with kids seemed to be where I fit in the most. With many of the kids, you would never see their parents for the whole day. Whenever I would go somewhere, I would very quickly become the center of attention for the kids. For some reason, they thought of me as a playground of sorts, and I was almost always busy with the kids. After about an hour or so of playing with the kids, we would settle them down and share the Gospel with them. I was able to witness many children ask Jesus into their lives. God truly worked through our youth when it came to sharing with these kids.

I also became involved in the door to door ministry. Although there was a language barrier, I usually had a translator to help me communicate. We would talk to almost everyone we saw. People there were very friendly and invited us in to their homes openly. Then we would share our testimonies and pray for them. I learned the language barrier is not something to worry about, and you can still spread the word of God even if you don't speak the same language.

This trip was also great for bonding with the other members of our church. Since I never go to the Hispanic service, I was able to meet and become good friends with a lot of the Hispanic youth. Daily we would work together and get to know each other. Now I feel it is safe to say that I am friends with everyone who went on

the trip. Before we left for the trip, I thought I wouldn't make many friends because I would be the youngest. But, everyone was very kind and treated me respectfully.

The Dominican trip was truly eye-opening, and very humbling. I was shocked by how friendly the people were despite their terrible circumstances. But everyone was welcoming, and the children were very kind. I learned a lot about talking with others, and public speaking is not as frightening to me anymore. God can work through us in many ways, and he worked through our team to speak his word, and bring people to him.

### **Penny Poston**

Having been to the DR several times, I went with certain expectations. It has been a couple of years since I last went and although I like to think I am older and wiser, I was filled with concerns that I might not be able to do it this year. Maybe I couldn't keep up, maybe I would feel disconnected from the team since I barely knew them, maybe it cost too much and the heat would be too much, and the language barrier, and on and on and on. I went over to the DR with an anxious heart and my prayer from my very first team meeting went something like this..."God, PLEASE don't let me make this all about me. Let this be ALL for you." So me and my insecurities and self-doubts packed and went, all the time praying the same prayer. I have traveled over there before with younger people, youth. That was one of my concerns this year. I kept thinking that they might be easily distracted, hesitant to share, playing around when there is work to be done and impatient with the older people on the team. Man was I wrong. This group of young people taught me so much. They loved unconditionally the people in the DR as well as their team members. They had endless energy and patience. They were eager and BOLD to share Jesus and they treated everyone with great respect. What integrity they showed. I learned so much from them and watching them be the hands and feet of Jesus spurred me on. What I did over there may have seemed small to me but I know it was BIG to God and my passion for the people of the DR continues to burn. It was not at all about me it was all about HIM and seeing how he brings a team of 20 people from all different ages, races, and backgrounds and HE gifted and used each one of us to love on the people in another country. We did make a difference in the Dominican Republic and that was an answer to my prayer. I really hope to go again.

### **Augie Clarkson**

I've been to the DR nine times now and I really think one word sums up this 2012 trip...AWESOME. Having been a number of times...I am always on the lookout for our team members doing courageous things, sharing intimate one on one ministry opportunities, stepping outside of their comfort zone, going the extra distance to share God's love, etc. I normally come away from a trip with just a few pictures or stories of these types of moments, but this trip has been completely different. My camera (and my brain) is full to capacity of our team members working together (and individually) to share the Love of Christ in many different ways. From administering medical care, to sitting and talking to a child that nobody pays attention to, or leading a huge group of Haitians in worship, or ministering to Dominicans door to door...our team was fully engaged. I've spent a few hours putting together slide shows and videos of their efforts, but simply cannot show it all. This mission team went above and beyond my expectations and I am so proud to have been part of such an awesome group of believers who are trying to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Great work Oasis Church Mission Team!!! Many people can now be called "brothers and sisters" because of your willingness to serve.

### **Bob Van Horn**

Two weeks before we left God showed me a passage of scripture that challenged us to Speak God's Word with Boldness. That has been my prayer for this team. God has used this team with great boldness to be His mouth piece. To stay in the background and watch God use this team is any Pastors dream. Needless to say this team has left a definite impact on the Haitians, Dominicans and most of all me. It was great to work alongside of them and see God use each in specific ways! Looking forward to next year already! Special shout out to Pastor Augie he did an outstanding job coordinating and prepping this team.

**Martin Jimenez**

This was a great experience for me to see the love of God in my brothers makes me understand that God is in control and that I only have to be obedient to what God wants me to do. I missed my family a lot being far away I realized how much I need them and without my family I am not complete. God spoke to me and told me I have to love, respect and take care of my family like He loves his church. He told me to leave the past behind and to renew myself because He wants me to be a better Husband, Father and Son of God.

Philippians 3:14 "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."