



Short Term Missions Team Member Package

About Every Day Ministries

Introduction

Every Day Ministries was co-founded in 2006 by the Larson and Thomas families. Every Day Ministries is a non-profit Christian missionary organization. The birth of Every Day Ministries came about when God clearly planted in the lives of both the Larson and Thomas families a deep passion and burden for the people of the DR. Through prayer and fasting, both families were given a clear vision from God to start a new work along the North Coast of the DR in an area that includes the cities of Samaná, Nagua, Río San Juan and San Francisco. Within this area are literally thousands of people who are unreached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There are also many with desperate physical, emotional and social needs who often have nowhere to turn. We believe God has called us to stand in the gap on behalf of the people in this area and, with God's help, not only bring about positive temporary changes, but also bring about spiritual changes in their lives that will last for an eternity.

Our main vision and passion is to partner with local pastors to equip, empower and encourage them, their families, churches and communities through preaching, teaching, training, discipleship, church and community projects, conferences, and crusades. We believe that by working hand in hand with local pastors, we will help to bring to fruition the vision God has given them.

Our goal is to see people reached with the Gospel and to assist the existing churches and their pastors in whatever way possible. We utilize short-term teams who serve through relationship building, work projects, medical clinics, and evangelism to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of the people.

Our Purpose

Every Day Ministries wants to use our short-term mission teams to help support the work the long-term missionaries are doing, and help further the God-given vision of Every Day Ministries. Opportunities to minister to the physical, spiritual, emotional and social needs of those we serve on a daily basis will happen through construction projects, Health Awareness Seminars, outreach events, conferences and retreats, as well as prayer and relationship building.

We also want to instill a vision in each participant and their home church to have more of a global perspective and to be involved in long-term missions. We believe all Christians are called to play a role in fulfilling the Great Commission, whether by praying, supporting mission work financially and/or going. We strive to provide a cross-cultural experience where each participant will be able to take a serious look at his/her life and consider the call to take the Gospel to the ends of the world.

Where We Work - A Profile of the North Coast

Every Day Ministries is situated in the city of Nagua. Our primary ministry focus is in the immediate Nagua area, but our ministry's influence stretches from Río San Juan (1.5 hours east of Puerto Plata) westward all the way to Samaná on the Samaná peninsula and south towards San Francisco de Macorís. See the map below:



The city of Nagua, also known as the city of God, is situated in the Province of Maria Trinidad Sanchez. In contrast to most of the North Coast, the economy of Nagua and the surrounding area is not driven by Tourism. Tourism is virtually non-existent, and the economy is driven mainly by Agriculture, which includes rice, cacao, coffee, peanuts, bananas and plantain. Located right on the Atlantic Ocean, Nagua is a sprawling city of about 122,165 people of which 4,000 claim to be Christians. Although small in number, the evangelical churches are growing under the direction of a wonderful group of pastors which Every Day Ministries has the privilege of equipping, empowering and encouraging daily through a variety of different ministries.

For more information on the Dominican Republic in general, please visit our website at www.everydayministries.com, and click on "The DR" on the top menu bar.

Ministry Opportunities

Along the North Coast of the DR, the possibilities for ministry are endless, yet the laborers are few. We encourage you to come and touch the lives of many here and allow God to transform yours. With a passion for Jesus, a heart for the lost, and an unquenchable desire to serve, God can use you in ways you never thought possible. Because we cover such a large territory and the needs of those we minister vary so tremendously, your ministry and service with us may involve one or more of the following:

<i>Work projects</i>	<i>Construction projects</i>	<i>Church ministry</i>	<i>Pastoral/church conferences/retreats</i>
<i>Mens/womens ministry</i>	<i>Evangelism/outreach (street, village, city)</i>	<i>Music and drama ministry</i>	<i>Health Awareness ministry</i>
<i>Youth/Children's ministry</i>	<i>Other similar ministry</i>		

Before You Come

Personal Information, Health, and Waiver Form

1. Although the North Coast of the DR is quite safe, Every Day Ministries requires that all visitors see their doctor before they travel. Each team member (or parents/legal guardian) is required to fill out the **online** Every Day Ministries personal and health information form at least **three (3) months prior to your trip**. Please note: EDM has the right to refuse a prospective team member due to health issues. As well, EDM will not accept a team member that does not have medical insurance for the week they minister and serve with EDM.
2. Although travel to any foreign country involves a certain level of risk, and Every Day Ministries seeks to minimize these risks to the best of their ability, there still remain a wide range of risks ranging from simple health related concerns to security. Every Day Ministries will do its best to provide clear information on these risks, as well as briefings on any particular risk we may be aware of at the time of your trip. Please fill out the waiver/liability form on our website, sign it (or obtain parent/guardian signature) and make sure you submit it at least 90 days prior to your missions trip. Signing this form releases Every Day Ministries, their directors, and their staff, from any liability towards your person. **Please note that we cannot accept any missions trip participants without a signed waiver/liability form.**

Finances

Make sure you find out the full cost of your mission trip and all the financial deadlines from your team leader. Don't forget to add in any personal expenses that may not be included in your group team cost such as medical insurance, spending money, airport arrival/departure taxes, health check-up, and/or renewing or purchasing a passport. The total cost of the trip, not including airfare and personal expenses is as follows:

US\$50.00	(initial non-refundable deposit) due 90 days before arrival
+ US\$375.00	<u>(remainder) due 30 days before arrival</u>
US\$425.00	

Documentation

1) Passport:

To travel to the Dominican Republic you will need a passport. You are responsible for obtaining your own passport. Applications for new and renewed passports can be found at your main local post office. If you need to either renew or purchase a passport, don't delay, as it can take weeks to process. It is vitally important that you have a valid passport to travel.

Please make several copies of your passport. Leave one at home where someone can find it easily, in case you lose your original. We also strongly encourage you to bring one copy on your trip with you, just in case your passport is lost or stolen.

2) Tourist card:

You will be required to fill out a Tourist card (Price varies from 10-20 USD) with all your relevant information before you enter the Dominican Republic. Short-term team members are considered volunteers and are classified as tourists. Remember to please fill in pleasure and not work or business on your tourist form. As well, the location and address of where you will be staying is:

c/ Primavera #9

Costa Verde (Soldado Arriba), Nagua

Dominican Republic

Travel Arrangements

It is your team's responsibility to make travel arrangements to and from the Dominican Republic. Most likely your team leader will book your tickets and inform you of the cost for the ticket as well as the deadline for the cost. Unless previously arranged by your group leader in consultation with Every Day Ministries, you will be flying into the Santo Domingo airport on Friday, and leaving from the same destination on the following Friday.

Every Day Ministries will meet you at the airport, and will provide all necessary transportation during the week, including transporting you back to the airport at the end of your stay with us.

Communication Once In the Dominican Republic

Because of the location of our ministry you will not have any opportunities to contact home. Please advise your parents, family members, and friends that they may not hear directly from you during the week. Every Day ministries will gladly email or call a designated person back home when you arrive who can then pass word to families and friends that the team has arrived safely.

In case of an Emergency, Every Day ministries can be contacted at the following two numbers:
612-605-6955 (Vonage number registered in Minnesota, USA)
905-487-8534 (Vonage number registered in Ontario, Canada)

Every Day Ministries does ask that your family and friends do not use the provided emergency contact numbers unless there is a true emergency. Please advise family and friends to respect this policy.

Medical/Health Information

Immunizations/Medical requirements:

Contact your doctor or local clinic to find out what immunizations and medications you will need and make sure all needed immunizations and required vaccinations are either updated or administered in time.

Health knowledge:

You should learn about the listed health issues you may encounter. Your local doctor or clinic can help you.

- Jetlag
- Heat exhaustion and dehydration
- Waterborne illness
- AIDS
- Malaria
- Dengue Fever
- Motion Sickness
- Travelers' Diarrhea
- Food Poisoning
- Swimming safely
- Animal bites
- Insect Bites and Insect Borne Diseases
- Altitude

To find more health information, try the following websites:

www.cdc.gov (Center for Disease Control)

www.travelhealth.com

Medical insurance:

Every Day Ministries requires all team members to have travel/health insurance. You must bring a copy of your medical insurance card on the trip (front and back).

Personal prescriptions:

We encourage you to bring a duplicate prescription with you in case your original prescription is misplaced. If misplaced, you may not be able to find your required medication here.

What To Bring:

We recommend that everything you bring be able to fit into one medium sized bag and one carry-on bag. Your second bag can be used to bring in suggested and/or needed donations. The key is to pack light. Please make sure to pack what you need as there is not a Walmart or any store similar available in the Nagua area.

Items To Bring:

- water bottle
- Bible, pen, and notebook/journal
- personal toiletries
- towel and washcloth
- light jacket
- bug spray (low DEET content)
- flashlight
- sunscreen and hat/cap
- battery operated alarm clock
- thin plastic poncho
- ear plugs—in case your roommates snore!
- work clothes
- casual clothes
- church clothes
- socks
- close-toed shoes and/or boots
- sandals/beach shoes
- swim-suits (no two piece)
- underwear
- spending money
- lip balm
- camera/film
- hand sanitizer

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT CLOTHING:

1. Remember, you need clothes for a week. Laundry facilities are not available. You may want to throw in a few extra clothes for emergencies as well.
2. During the week you are with us, you will be involved in a variety of different ministries requiring different types of clothing and dress. Please note the following carefully:

A. **WORK:** For both men and women, closed toes shoes are a must, preferably some type of work boot. As well, bring clothing you do not mind getting dirty or ruined.

----MEN: (Knee length shorts, or long pants; T-shirts (sleeveless is fine, but no tank tops)

----WOMEN: (Knee length shorts, or long pants; T-shirts (sleeveless is fine, but no tank tops, bikini straps, or strapless, as well, no bare midriff).

B. **MINISTRY:** (Church services, etc)

----MEN: Long pants, collared shirt (polo shirts acceptable), socks and shoes (no open toes)

----WOMEN: Knee length or longer skirts, blouse/T-shirt/capped sleeve shirt (no sleeveless), sandals, etc

C. **MINISTRY:** (Door to door, etc)

----MEN: Knee length shorts, or long pants, T-shirts (no sleeveless), etc, closed shoes

----WOMEN: Knee length shorts, long pants, Capris, etc, T-shirts (no sleeveless), etc, closed toe shoes.

D. **CASUAL:** (Beach day, etc)

----MEN: Long shorts/swimming suits; sandals, tank tops, etc

----WOMEN: 1 piece bathing suit, tank tops, sandals, etc

While You Are here

Stay Healthy

Traveling and working in another country can take a toll on your health. You will be eager to work hard and experience new things. You need to be careful that your enthusiasm does not set you up for sickness if you do not pace yourself and listen to your body.

You are not only adjusting to a new culture and each other, but you must also adjust to a new climate, foods you might not be used to eating, and possibly hard physical labor. It should not come as a surprise if you or members of your team get sick.

We do ask that you and your team pace yourselves, and be honest how you are feeling. It's okay to break for water and rest if it will keep you healthy.

Water

The only water suitable for drinking in the DR is bottled water. Due to the climate, we encourage you to drink all the bottled water you can to prevent dehydration and heat-stroke. You should bring some type of water bottle to carry with you at all times. It is recommended that you drink one ounce of water per pound of body weight to stay hydrated during the day.

Sunscreen

Due to the location of the DR, the sun rays are much more direct and powerful. Sunscreen should be applied several times a day. SPF 35 or higher is highly recommended.

First Aid

Although Every Day Ministries will be aware of the closest clinic, hospital or doctor during your week of ministry, there may be times we may be 1-2 hours away from the nearest medical facility. For this reason, we recommend all teams to have at least one person on your team that has had both first aid and CPR training.

Your team leader will be responsible for bringing a team first aid kit. This kit will need to be with your team at all times as you travel. Your team leader should keep a spare copy of every team member's medical information in the kit.

You might consider bringing a small personalized first aid kit with medications or items you use frequently.

If you are on any medications that will need to be taken during your week with us, we encourage you to bring a duplicate set of medication in case your medication is lost. During travel carry one set in your carry on bag, and one set in your checked bag in case a bag is lost or misplaced.

Things that crawl, fly and bite

In most developing countries, mosquitoes, chiggers, ticks, sand fleas, flies, and other bugs can ruin your trip. We encourage you to use insect repellent. Apply repellent to your wrists, ankles, neck and behind your ears. Be careful of using repellent containing concentrations of DEET above 30%.

We encourage all participants to wear covered shoes or boots anytime we minister in the countryside. You may visit areas with snakes and spiders, but, most likely, you will not see any. Although there are no poisonous snakes in the DR, we still recommend that you do not put your hand where you cannot see what you are touching, and stay on established trails and be watchful and aware.

Please do not pet or touch stray animals, as stray animals in the DR may carry a variety of communicable diseases and sicknesses.

Snacks

We encourage you to bring some sort of healthy snack foods to eat during the day. Please do not buy any food from a street vendor. We also encourage you to only eat fruit that can be peeled, or has been washed thoroughly in a trusted water source.

Medical Emergencies

Every Day Ministries will work closely with your team and team leaders to inform and prepare you in case of any medical emergencies. The DR does have some hospitals and clinics that are adequately prepared to handle most medical emergencies. Please do not hesitate to inform a missionary and/or a team leader immediately if you are aware of any type of medical emergency.

Cultural Sensitivity

The following guidelines are for cultural sensitivity. We are not passing judgment on the following dress items, but we know that these things can be misunderstood by Dominicans and be detrimental to the ministry. Our goal here is not to cause our brothers and sisters to stumble and hinder the long-term work of the Gospel.

Male team members:

- be well-groomed
- jewelry should be kept minimal
- do not wear fatigues, camouflage or anything associated with gangs or the military

Female team members:

- jewelry and makeup kept to minimal
- please ensure modesty—be conservative. We ask ladies not to have tight-fitting clothes, low necklines or waistlines or exposed backs of midriffs

Attitude is the most important thing. We are already strangers here. We want to do as much as possible to keep people's eyes off us and on Jesus.

Cultural orientation

Perhaps the most important thing to realize as a team in the DR is that you are guests in a foreign country. You are the ones who do things that seem quite different. In fact, many things that are thought innocent or normal at home could be offensive here and may hinder people from hearing the message of salvation. It is critical that we be careful of the impression we create as representatives of Christ.

The following suggestions are offered to help you understand the people of the DR and to help you have a positive experience. The general guidelines will assist you in developing a mindset of cultural sensitivity, while the practical guidelines give more detailed rules to follow.

General guidelines

1. Look at all your actions from the perspective of the people around you.
2. Remember that community and relationships are some of the most important things in the Dominican Republic.
3. Be flexible concerning time
4. Be a learner. You may be surprised what you will learn from the Dominican culture and its traditions. Remember to keep an open mind. Many aspects of the Dominican culture will interest, enhance and even puzzle you: recognize these differences and respect them without passing judgment.
5. Remember that you represent your home church, Every Day Ministries and Christ—please seek to represent the spiritual values, moral conduct, and likeness of Christ in all you say and do.
6. Seek to live an exemplary life of holiness and obedience to God's commands.
7. Respect the host culture and distinctive practices of Christianity.
8. We expect that your group will focus on relationships with your team, with your host country nationals, and with God. Any project, although important, should never become the sole focus of your group.

Practical guidelines

1. Refrain from making too many comparisons between the DR and home.
2. Be friendly and greet everyone you meet.
3. Both male and female team members must not flirt with the opposite sex.
4. Always ask if you can take a photograph.
5. Guard your English conversation.
6. Churches are fairly traditional. Refrain from singing secular songs, etc.
7. Watch your body language and facial expressions.
8. We strongly discourage mp3 players, iPods, or other "headphone" devices. We encourage you to talk with the locals and fellow mission team members to get to know them better.
9. Refrain from expression of political opinions.
10. Refrain from rude/obscene language, alcohol and illegal drugs and smoking.
11. Be prepared to alter eating habits, dress, and interactions between men and women in order to adapt to the culture of the host community.
12. Maintain a positive servant's attitude towards all nationals and team members.
13. Participants are asked to exemplify these following qualities to all they meet: humility, flexibility, compassion, grace, patience, teachability, willingness, and love.
14. Be willing to submit to the directives of your team leader(s), both during training, and on the field as well as the direction and guidance of all missionaries.
15. Fulfill the team requirements pertaining to team training, service on the field, and debriefing.
16. The team's work and behavior sets the standard by which future ministry in that area will be viewed by the Dominican people.

Summary

All of us at Every Day Ministries want to make sure your team has a positive and life-changing experience. Be praying and expecting that as you serve the Lord in the Dominican Republic, He will both touch your life and the lives of those around you in powerful, life-changing ways.

When You Leave

Due to the fact that you must be at the airport at least two hours prior to your departure, it is vitally important that you are ready to leave at the time specified by your group leader. To help facilitate this process, here are a few recommendations:

1. Have your passport and ticket ready.
2. Have ready your departure tax of US\$20.00 (subject to change).
3. If you have any items that you plan to leave behind, please notify a missionary prior to departure from the mission house.
4. Be completely packed by the morning of departure.
5. Don't forget to express your thanks and appreciation to the mission house staff.

Spanish

The primary language in the area that we minister in is Spanish. Thus we recommend that you endeavor to learn some basic Spanish phrases. We encourage you to purchase a Spanish-English dictionary and/or a Spanish phrasebook and bring it with you. Don't hesitate to practice your Spanish with the local people you will minister with daily.

We will be praying for you that God will provide all that you need as you prepare to join us for a week here in the Dominican Republic.

May God richly bless you,

The EDM team.