

**Awaken Student Ministries
2010 Dominican Republic Mission Trip
June 18-27, 2010**

*Everything You Wanted To Know About the Mission Trip
To The Dominican Republic!*

TRIP REQUIREMENTS

Age Level

1. Each student must be in grades 9-12 in the 2010 school year.

Attendance/Participation

2. Students must be active participants in Awaken Student Ministries' Wednesday night youth group and other activities.
3. It is highly encouraged but not required for current 8th graders to attend the Know Sweat Mission Trip in July 2009.

Fundraising

4. All students/parents must participate in **at least TWO** fundraising events. (even if there is no need for funds for the participant)

Team Meetings

5. All team members need to make team meetings a priority

Code of Conduct

6. Each team member will be asked to sign a code of conduct before the trip. We are going to represent Jesus Christ; therefore we need to act like it!

Devotions

7. Each team member will be responsible for giving a short devotion for the group in the morning and evening. See the schedule below for your date and time.

PURPOSE

This trip is not a vacation! This is a mission trip which means there is a purpose and a mission for us going. We will be helping missionaries Rick and Suzanne York with their ministry of building churches/camps to help share the Word of God with the Dominican Republic people. The command is clear in Matthew 28:19-20, that we are to go into "all nations" and spread the Word of God. That is our purpose. It is to simply be a servant and go help those who might be less fortunate than we are but most of all, share and spread the Hope of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior!

TRIP PROJECTS

1. Construction Work on the Worship Center
2. Construction work on the parsonage in La Romana
3. Preliminary work (fencing) etc on a camp
4. VBS in different villages
5. Beach Day

MAIN DETAILS

Dates: June 18-27, 2009

Location: Punta Cana, Dominican Republic\

COST OF THIS TRIP

Cost Breakdown

1. \$40 per person per day- Mission Fee \$400.00
2. Airfare- est. \$400-\$650
3. Tourism Card- \$10.00
4. Team T-Shirt- \$20.00

Total estimated cost per person \$830-1030

FORMS YOU MUST HAVE

1. Passport
2. Passenger Information Sheet (Summit Travel)
3. 2010 Awaken Student Ministries' Medical Release Form
4. Code of Conduct Form
5. International Travel Consent Form (Those under 18)

FUNDRAISING

1. We will participate in several fundraisers over the next year to help supplement your cost and raise money for the building projects.
2. **All team members need to participate in these fundraisers.**

LOCATION

1. Where will our group be working?

We will fly into Santo Domingo, the capital city on the south side of the Island. We will travel by bus to La Romana and a possible trip to Punta Cana.

2. What language is spoken in this area?

Spanish is the main language with many people speaking a little English. They love it if you try to speak Spanish with them!

3. What specific cultural sensitivities should we be aware of?

Dominicans are very friendly and open and hospitable. Because they are poorer and maybe less educated than you are does not mean that they are not as good as you. Accept them as your equals, brothers and sisters in Christ and you'll be very well received. The dress code will be printed under the clothing heading.

CHURCH / MISSION

1. What is the name of the church or mission?

"La Iglesia Cristiana" (Cuerpo de Cristo) The Christian Church. The mission name is "El Centro Cristiano" (the Christian Center)

2. How many churches does this mission work with?

There are 51 churches all pastored by National workers

3. When was the mission started?

Bill Loft began the work in 1977. The York family began working with the mission in 1990. The team of Americans and Dominicans provide leadership training, church planting, church and facility construction, and educational programs for the

COMMUNICATION I SAFETY

- 1. Is there a telephone where we can be reached in case of an emergency?**
Yes, Rick and Suzanne York's home number is **809/550-9695** and their cell number is **809/458-6840**. You can call Jeremy on his cell phone while we are in the US. **423-239-0317**.
- 2. Can I bring/use my own cell phone?**
It is **NOT** recommended that you bring your cell phone on this trip. The church will not be liable if it is lost or stolen. You are better off leaving it at home. Even if your phone "works" internationally, you will still pay steep bills. It is better to use the phone service there.
- 3. Can we call home?**
Yes, we will use a local phone office that usually has the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- 4. Where is the nearest hospital?**
There are several good clinics in town so that is no problem.
- 5. Does the church have insurance coverage for this trip?**
We have a special overseas policy that covers medical, emergency evacuation, and accidents.
- 6. What is the current political situation in the area?**
It is very calm and orderly. The country has been very stable for the past several years, with free election every four years.

WEATHER

- 1. What is the climate like?**
Hot and humid. Average temperature will be about 93 during the day and 70 at night.
- 2. Will the weather be a factor for our team?**
Yes. **-High-grade sun block is a must.** Hats are a good idea! There is plenty of bottled water to refresh weary bodies.

HOUSING

- 1. Where will we sleep?**
We will be sleeping at the project site in a building that has three rooms with bunk-beds. The beds sleep 24 so some will need to bring air mattresses.
- 2. What kind of bedding do we need?**
None, unless you want to bring your own small pillow. They supply all sheets and towels.
- 3. Are there showers, hot water, and flush toilets?**
There are showers in each room. Hot water will depend on the location we are in. There are flushing toilets in each room as well.

FOOD

1. What food is available in the area?

Well-cooked meals, Dominican style, will be prepared for us. We will eat mostly rice, beans, chicken, bread, fresh fruit and vegetables. A typical noon meal: rice and beans, meat and salad. **You must be willing to try the food. They will be insulted if you turn up your nose at their food.** You will need food energy to work.

2. Is there safe drinking water?

We'll have plenty of safe bottled water to drink. **We MUST NOT drink the local tap water!** Cokes and other pops are available at local stores that are made from purified water

3. Can we bring snacks?

Yes, but don't over do it. (e.g. Pringles, peanuts, peanut butter, crackers, granola bars, pop tarts, etc.) Avoid snacks that will melt. Try to bring some clothing.

CLOTHING

1. What is appropriate dress for GIRLS?

Work Site: Shorts, not too short, T-shirts - no sleeveless, no tank tops or mid-drifts

Sightseeing: Shorts, Slacks, Jeans or Skirts, one-piece swimsuit for the beach

Church: Skirts or dresses (no low cut or high hems - must be below the knee)

2. What is appropriate dress for the GUYS?

Work Site: Shorts, not too short, T-Shirts, no tank tops

Sightseeing: Shorts, Slacks, Jeans, swimsuits for the beach (no Speedos)

Church: Kaki pants (no jeans) and collar shirt and possible tie

3. What kind of clothing is recommended?

Lightweight clothing, loose fitting clothes, work shoes or boots, tennis shoes, decent shoes for church, work gloves- a pair that fits your hands. **Modesty is the KEY!** (More details on packing list)

4. Will there be a laundry facility?

Yes, you can wash clothes at the York's if you need to.

ENTERING AND LEAVING THE COUNTRY

1. Is a passport required?

YES! (if you don't have yours, you need to start the process now!)

2. Is a visa required?

No. We will have to buy a Tourist Card for \$10.00 (U.S. dollars) to enter the D.R. This fee is included in your total trip cost.

3. What shots are required to enter the Dominican Republic?

No shots are required. You must have an updated Tetanus shot. Malaria is not a problem here, nor is yellow fever.

4. What specific things must not be said when we are going through customs and immigration?

There must be **NO JOKING** about drugs, bombs, guns or anything like this. There is always the possibility that our luggage could be inspected in both the D.R. and the U.S.

MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS

1. What personal items would you recommend bringing?

All personal items. Girls, feminine articles are not readily available, so be prepared. If you wear contacts be sure to bring your glasses. Adequate supply of any prescription medicine you are taking. Bring a camera (Be sure it works before you go & an empty memory card or two) and extra batteries.

2. What should we NOT bring?

Alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or offensive shirt logos (beer, questionable sayings, etc.) cell phones, iPods, MP3 & CD players, Game Boys, etc. Expensive jewelry and watches should be left home.

3. Will we have a chance to buy souvenirs?

Yes. We will spend one day & evening enjoying the beach and an afternoon shopping before we leave. Local souvenirs are very affordable.

4. What about finances?

The local currency is the Dominican peso. The current exchange rate is ___ for a dollar, which makes each peso worth about ___ cents U.S. **You can bring cash or personal checks.** The missionary can get checks cashed for us. We will exchange money only as we need it.

How much should I bring for personal use? \$50.00 - \$75.00 It depends on how many souvenirs and how much soda you drink. (a one-liter bottle is 7 pesos)

5. What will be done to encourage spiritual growth on this trip?

A. Daily Devotions: Each morning and evening we will take turns leading our group in a devotion and time of prayer. The devotion is to be prepared before leaving for the D.R. **EXAMPLE-**

Friday, June 18 th :	Morning: Jeremy Green	Evening:
Saturday, June 19 st :	Morning:	Evening:
Sunday, June 20 st :	Morning: Church	Evening:
Monday, June 21 nd :	Morning:	Evening:
Tuesday, June 22 rd :	Morning	Evening:
Wednesday, June 23 th :	Morning:	Evening:
Thursday, June 24 th :	Morning:	Evening:
Friday, June 25 th :	Morning:	Evening:
Saturday, June 26 th :	Morning:	Evening:
Sunday, June 27 th :	Morning:	Evening:

B. Journal: Each person will have a Journal with his or her name on the outside. Each person should make the following notes in their journal daily: *Most interesting event(s) that happened to me today?, *What did God teach me today?, How I can use this truth to live my life for God? *I was encouraged by _____ today. They... , *New people I met today..., *Prayer requests and answers.

C. Care Cards: Each day, you will have a different person to observe and write a note of appreciation. The cards will be included in your journal, including the person to whom you will write. We will NOT be able to look at these cards until the flight home.

D. Actions: We will always represent followers of Jesus Christ. Our words and actions will reflect the type of lifestyle He desires. We could do damage to the mission's work by what we say, do and even wear. The strength of our trip will rely on **your** attitude and **your** service. We want you to have fun while on our trip. However, be careful about goofing off on our work site and around the Dominican people.

6. Travel Teams

We will form teams to aid in checking in and out of the airports, safety of each team member, and a quick system of accounting for every one.

How to dress for airport check in: You will be asked to remove your shoes. Avoid flip-flops due to the amount of airport walking we will have to do. Try to avoid wearing anything with metal, such as, heavy jewelry, watches, clothing with metal buttons or snaps, belt buckles or under-wire bras. Keep everything like loose change out of your pockets – put in carry on.

7. How much luggage can I bring?

CHECKED LUGGAGE: You may bring one large suitcase that you will check. This suitcase cannot exceed 62 inches (L+W+H). Max. Weight is 50 lbs.

CARRY ON: You can carry on 1 small bag (cannot exceed 45 inches (L+W+H) Max weight of 40 pounds) that must fit in the small overhead storage or under a seat inside the plane. You can also have a small fanny pack, briefcase, and purse. Carry on your camera, money, and medication (pack together in a 1 quart zip- lock bag and place on top – limit of 1 zip-lock bag – Each traveler must remove their quart-sized plastic, zip-top bag from their carry-on and place it in a bin or on the conveyor belt for X-ray screening. Pack one complete change of clothes in the carry on in case your luggage arrives a different day than you do. NO knives, fingernail files, metal objects, liquids, aerosols and gels in your carry on – these will be taken away. Questions? www.TSATravelTips.us

LABEL: Jeremy will provide luggage labels for you. Don't worry about locking luggage. They may open them and will break the locks if needed. Remember you will have to carry your entire luggage once we arrive at the airport. Walk around your house outside 4 times carrying everything you'll be taking, and then decide if you can do with a little less. You are responsible for seeing your luggage is checked and loaded at each stop.

8. Guidelines while on the trip

- a. No dating with Dominicans. You will develop close friendships that will last a long time. While we are on the trip, there will be no **dating**,

holding hands, kissing or any other form of expressing affection between couples.

- b. No use of tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or firearms.
- c. No use of profanity or American “questionable” slang terms
- d. Don’t just wait around to be told to do something.
- e. Don’t complain or grip. Don’t gossip. If you have a problem, go immediately to one of the adult leaders

PACKING LIST

BEDDING:

____ Air Mattress (only if you are assigned to bring one)

____ A small pillow (optional)

TOILETRIES:

____ Toothbrush and paste

____ Soap

____ Shampoo/Conditioner

____ Deodorant

____ Lotion

____ Razors (DO NOT PACK ON CARRY ON!)

____ 2 Towels and Wash Cloths

____ Girls: remember to bring along all necessary women's items. Often times a woman's cycle is thrown off its regularity because of the different foods, physical labor and excitement of the trip. Be prepared and expect the unexpected.

MEDICATION:

____ If you are on medication, bring enough to last the entire trip

____ Tylenol

____ Diarrhea medicine

_____ Acidophilus (builds up good bacteria in your systems) you can purchase this at any drug store.

CLOTHING:

_____ **Church Clothes**

_____ Gals: Dress or skirt and blouse

_____ Guys: Long dress pants, dress shirt and tie

_____ **Work Clothes**

_____ 4 or 5 different work outfits.

_____ Gals: no tube tops, mid drifts, sleeveless blouses or tight T-shirts, etc.

_____ Guys: no tank tops. Guys must wear shirt at all times (Shorts are OK, no boxers, but not too short!)

_____ Work boots or shoes

_____ Dress shoes

_____ Tennis shoes for play and an old pair for the beach (water shoes)

_____ Work gloves - not 99% cotton - find a pair that fits your hands

_____ Hat and Sunglasses

_____ Play Clothes.

_____ Modesty is the key

_____ **Other Clothing**

_____ Underwear

_____ Lots of socks

_____ Lots of T-shirts

_____ Swimsuit (Conservative - no 2 piece suits, Speedos)

(If you must wear a two piece you will need a COLORED t-shirt to go

over the top! White t-shirts are not acceptable)

_____ Windbreaker / Sweatshirt

SUPPLIES:

- _____ Sunscreen (GOOD QUALITY)
- _____ Bug Spray (Deep Woods OFF)
- _____ Flash Light and extra batteries
- _____ Camera (New battery in camera and make sure camera works before you go)
- _____ Water bottle or cup to have at the work site
- _____ Spending money (\$50.00 +)
- _____ Picture of your family, which includes you in the photo
- _____ Bible Travel Size
- _____ Journal
- _____ Devotional thoughts to share
- _____ Servant and encouraging attitude toward one another and those we stay and work with. We are to be a blessing to those we minister with.