

# Mission Possible



June 17 ~ 24, 2013

For more information, please visit our website:  
[www.missionpossible.us](http://www.missionpossible.us)



# “For through faith, you are children of God in Christ Jesus.”

## Galatians 3:26

Dear Mission Participant,

As Christians, we are all called each day to live in solidarity with all of God's people. Scripture consistently reminds us that it is our responsibility to build God's kingdom of mercy and justice for all; Jesus had a clear preference for the poor!  
“What you do for the least among you, you do for me.” (Matthew 25:40)

Thank you for opening your heart to God's call to serve our less fortunate brothers and sisters in the world as part of Mission Possible. Your “yes” to the Lord will make a real difference in the lives of those we serve. The experience will shape and form your heart and your life. This information packet is designed to give you good information and give you an opportunity to reflect on God's call and your response.

Please review the information below prior to filling out the attached paperwork.

For your information, Mission Possible Dominican Republic, Inc. is a formally recognized 501(c)3 organization. Since December of 2006 there have been annual mission trips of lay people and skilled tradesmen traveling to Higuey, Dominican Republic to care for the poorest of the poor and lift up a community of displaced Dominicans and Haitian refugees.

The goal of Mission Possible is to create a sense of solidarity – a real and meaningful relationship between our community at home and those we serve. Our hope is to create a personal connection between each missionary and the families we care for and serve. Simply put, our goals are to:

- **Care** for the poorest of the poor throughout the world
- **Connect** the People of God to Christ and His mission of service to the poor
- **Engage** the next generation to continue the work of Christ forever
- **Organize** and facilitate mission trips

As an interested and potential participant of Mission Possible, there are expectations for which each individual shall be held responsible. In the best interest of the Mission, please keep in mind the two critical parts to the goals of Mission Possible:

- **Experience:** It is our goal to make your week in the Dominican incredible, awe-inspiring and life-changing.
- **Help the poorest of the poor:** It is also our goal to lift up our community in Higuey and continue to improve their lives by offering education, health care, housing, love and most importantly, hope for a better day.

In light of increased interest and to best achieve the goals of Mission Possible, several new factors will be taken into account when considering participants:

- Cooperation and compliance of all pre-trip requirements, including, but not limited to:
  - Completion of ALL required forms, including a three paragraph response to the question:  
“Why do you want to go on this mission trip?”
  - Virtus requirements (as specified by the Diocese of Cleveland)
  - Financial commitment (payments in time specified)
  - Attendance and participation in pre-trip meetings and retreats
  - Involvement in trip fundraisers
  - Demonstration of responsibility and reliability
- Post-trip expectations
  - Participation in post-trip meeting
  - Fundraisers occurring throughout the year
  - A one year commitment to serve on the Working Board (meetings are quarterly).
- If you are a “returning mission member,” your eligibility for the trip will be based on past cooperation and commitment.

It is the hope of Mission Possible to continue this mission for many years to come. We ask that you place this entire process in prayer.

# Dominican Republic Mission Trip

**Dates:** Monday, June 17 – 24, 2013

**Location:** Higüey, Dominican Republic

**Airport:** Punta Cana

**Lodging:** Hotel Don Carlos in Higüey

**Who can go:** Anyone age 15 or older



## **Cost:**

- Total Personal Cost is **\$1,500** per person (\$825 airline ticket, \$375 room/board, \$300 materials)
  - Deposit: \$800 (due with application)
  - Second Payment of \$400: (due by the First Meeting on May 4, 2013 at 10:00 am)
  - Third Payment of \$300: (due by the Second Meeting on June 1, 2013 at 11:00 am)

## **Application Process:**

**Application deadline is April 8, 2013.** Selection for participation on the mission trip is based on timely submission of your deposit and application and a review of your application responses. Application selection is conducted by members of the Mission Board. If the number of applications received by the deadline exceeds the number of spots available there will be a random drawing for all available spots. A full refund will be given to any application not selected in the random drawing. Please make sure your application is returned on time. We want and need you to join us in caring for those most in need.

## **Additional requirements:**

- **Passport**
  - Passports take several months to be processed. In order to expedite the process (receive a passport in 6 – 8 weeks), there is an additional \$60 fee.
  - Visit [http://travel.state.gov/passport/fri/pubs/pubs\\_854.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/fri/pubs/pubs_854.html) or [www.usps.com/passport](http://www.usps.com/passport) for all necessary details.
  - Fees are \$110 if you are over 16 and \$80 if you are under 16. You will also have a \$25.00 execution fee to be paid to the facility where you are applying for your passport.
- **3 Copies of your health insurance card and passport (must be legible)**
- **Immunizations:** (available from the County Health Department)  
*Please make arrangements to visit one of the following Health Departments minimally 10 weeks prior to the trip.*
  - Medina County Health Dept. (330-723-9688), Cuyahoga County Travel Clinic (216-201-2041)
  - Necessary immunizations and medications include: Hepatitis A & B, Tetanus, Typhoid, and Malaria pills
- **If you are over 18, you must be Virtus trained ([www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org)) NO EXCEPTIONS**

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. Where do we stay?**

**A.** We stay at Hotel Don Carlos, centrally located near the cathedral in Higuey. It generally takes about ten minutes by taxi to the work site.

**Q. Is the hotel comfortable?**

**A.** Our hotel is clean, safe and comfortable. While it is not up to the standards we look for in our nicer American facilities, it does have running water (not necessarily hot) to shower, air conditioning, and electricity.

**Q. What is the temperature this time of year?**

**A.** It is in the 90's with high humidity.

**Q. What will we be doing?**

**A.** While we would love to have every detail listed in advance, the reality is that we work in a third world country and are constantly adapting and changing. During this trip we plan to put the roofs on existing structures, build interior walls and complete and paint five homes. We are also hoping to dig the footers for five additional homes. In addition, we will be continuing medical outreach and child educational classes.

**Q. What do we bring?**

**A.** See attached Packing List.

**Q. I don't speak Spanish. Is this a problem?**

**A.** No. There are missionaries who are able to communicate in Spanish in order to efficiently and effectively accomplish the goals of the trip. Despite the language barrier, the local people are extremely kind and will often use gestures and hand motions to communicate.

**Q. I'm not very strong nor physically fit. Is this acceptable?**

**A.** Yes. Everyone has his/her own unique gifts and talents. Some may be good at pouring cement, some at painting, some at carpentry, some at electrical work, and some at sorting, organizing and distributing clothes. The important thing is to recognize your God-given talents and use these talents to help the poorest of the poor.

**Q. I'm concerned about the intense heat of the day and ensuring my safety and health.**

**A.** Hydration is essential! Don't try to be a hero. If you don't feel well, tell someone, take a break and get out of the heat. We also travel with several missionaries certified in CPR and first aid. There is a first aid kit on hand at all times.

**Q. Is there a hospital or healthcare available?**

**A.** Yes. There is an out-patient center about ten minutes from the hotel and twenty minutes from the worksite.

**Q. What will we eat and drink?**

**A.** We have developed a network of places and food sources that are both nutritious and safe. Lunch each day includes: peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, fruit and snacks (granola bars). Dinners may include: spaghetti, rice and beans, chicken, steak, or pizza. Be assured that the food we consume is safe and healthy.

# Packing List

## **What to Pack:**

- Work Clothes
  - Several pairs of pants
  - T-shirts with sleeves
  - Work boots and socks
  - Tennis Shoes
  - Leather work gloves
  - Sunglasses and a hat or bandana
- Casual Clothes
  - Shorts
  - Bathing suit and towel for possible beach trip
  - One nice outfit for Sunday Mass (no shorts, short skirts or sleeveless tops)
  - Flip Flops/Sandals
- Personal Items
  - Basic toiletries: shampoo/conditioner, soap, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.
  - Necessary medications in their original containers
  - Antibacterial hand gel and/or antibacterial wipes
  - Bug spray (at least 30% deet)
  - Suntan lotion
  - Necessary personal hygiene products (i.e. tampons)
- Miscellaneous
  - Backpack
  - Bible
  - Shower towel & wash cloth
  - Rain Coat/Poncho
  - Journal or some reading material for free time and plane ride
  - Battery-Operated Clock
  - Air fresheners
  - Plastic/Garbage bags to bring home dirty clothes, boots, etc.

## • **What not to pack:**

- Expensive watches or jewelry
- Electronic games, laptops, or DVD players
- Any fruits or unsealed meats
- Wireless phones

## • **Bring at your own risk**

- iPod
- Digital Camera
- Money for incidentals

# Registration Form

Name (as it appears on passport): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

## Emergency Contact Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address of family member(s) to receive updates during the trip:

\_\_\_\_\_

## Medical Information

*All provided information will remain confidential*

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

### Other medical concerns or medications:

*It is extremely important we are aware of ALL the medications you are taking.*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Background Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you have any previous mission trip experience? Yes No  
*If yes, please explain:*
2. Do you have a current passport? Yes No  
*If no, when do you anticipate applying for/receiving it?*
3. If over the age of 18, have you been Virtus trained? Yes No  
*If not, for which session have you registered?*
4. Please explain any specialized experience you may have (building, medical, painting etc.).

5. Are you able to attend the following events and organizational meetings (please check)?

- Saturday, April 6: "Grand Slam Gala" Fundraiser (Progressive Field Terrace Club)
- Saturday, May 4: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (St. Ambrose, Lehner Center)
- Saturday, June 1: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm (St. Ambrose, Lehner Center)

If unable to attend a meeting, please explain:

6. Why do you want to go on this mission trip? Please pray, reflect and think about your answer and respond in a few paragraphs on a separate sheet of paper.

**Registration Deadline: April 8, 2013**  
**Please return payment and registration form to:**  
**Saint Ambrose Church c/o Mission Possible**  
**929 Pearl Road, Brunswick, Ohio 44212**  
**frandy@sjnohio.com**  
**216.533.1661**

# Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic Participant/Parental Consent Form

I/we as the parent(s) or legal guardians of (or adult participant) \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby grant permission

(Participant's name – please print)

for the aforesaid participant in the "Mission Possible" Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic from Monday, June 17 –24, 2013 in Higüey, Dominican Republic.

I/we agree by my/our mutual signature(s) to release, absolve, indemnify, and hold harmless any and all Catholic parishes, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, Mission Possible – Dominican Republic, Inc. and any and all supervisors, volunteers, organizers or sponsors thereof, and from any and all liability for injury, medical fees, hospital bills, or doctor bills of aforesaid participant. I/we waive all claims of any kind against any or all of the organizations or persons hereinabove enumerated.

I/we understand that the program includes construction work, including but not limited to concrete and mortar work, moving equipment, laying blocks, constructing floors, walls, and roofs, painting, and other finishing work (hereinafter "volunteer effort"). I/we understand that this volunteer effort entails a risk of physical and/or mental and/or emotional injury and often involves hard physical labor, heavy lifting, and other strenuous activity. I/we have been advised that participants should wear appropriate work clothing including close-toed shoes to avoid possible injuries and work clothes appropriate to sometimes filthy working conditions. I/we understand the risks involved in the volunteer effort including injury, illness, and allergic reactions. I/we affirm that the participant herein named is in good health and physically and emotionally able to perform the foregoing volunteer effort. I/we waive all claims of any kind involving program activities against any or all of the organizations or persons herein above enumerated.

I/we understand that participation in this trip includes all of the risks of traveling to a foreign country. I/we have been advised of the recommended vaccinations, including hepatitis A and B, typhoid, tetanus, and malaria pills. I/we have also been advised of precautions necessary to avoid contracting any of these diseases, including drinking only bottled water and only fully cooked or otherwise safely prepared food. I/we waive all claims of any kind resulting from the contraction of any disease while in the Dominican Republic against any or all of the organizations or persons hereinabove enumerated.

I/we understand that travel between Cleveland, Ohio and the Dominican Republic will take place by airplane. I/we waive all claims of any kind involving travel against any or all of the organizations or persons hereinabove enumerated. I/we understand that participants will be housed in a simple retreat center in Higüey, Dominican Republic, selected by the trip organizers. The participants herein named will abide by whatever regulations may be in effect for the accommodations at the time. I/we waive all claims of any kind involving participant accommodations or feeding against any or all of the organizations or persons hereinabove enumerated.

I/we hereby give consent to photograph or videotape aforesaid participant and without limitation to use such photographs or videotapes and or stories in connection with any work of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland without consideration of any kind, and I do hereby release the organization hereinabove enumerated from any claims whatsoever which may arise in said regard.

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*Parent or Guardian's signature (or Participant's signature if 18 years or older)*

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*Date*

# Personal Fundraising

Each member of the mission trip team is asked to help raise funds with the support of family and friends.

You will be amazed at how many people will be excited for you and more than willing to help support our mission trip efforts. Many think mission trips are a great idea, but find it difficult to actually go! You are one of the few!

## **Here are some simple personal fundraising steps:**

1. Take a look at the enclosed fundraising letter. Personalize it!
2. On the support form, fill in your name and address!
3. Send out a mailing to all of your family and friends. Make sure that the fundraising letter is personalized with each one of their names. Include a support form in each envelope. If you'd like letterhead and envelopes from your parish please ask.
4. Follow up with phone calls and thank you notes!
5. When you receive the checks and support forms, keep a record of them and then turn in the originals to Mission Possible c/o Jake Bihari at Saint Ambrose (929 Pearl Road, Brunswick, Ohio 44212).
6. Plan to participate and attend the "Grand Slam Gala" Fundraiser on Saturday, April 6, 2013 at the Terrace Club at Progressive Field. Visit [www.missionpossible.us](http://www.missionpossible.us) for more information.

# Sample Fundraising Letter

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Wonderfully Supportive,

Six years ago, our parish community heard about a small, impoverished village in the Dominican Republic that was in desperate need for our help. Answering the Gospel's call to love neighbors, wherever they may be, 35 missionaries traveled to Higuey. On this trip, they began a beautiful ministry to a village that had been devastated by Hurricane Jeanne.

Over the past several years, eight other groups have traveled down to continue to help our brothers and sisters in Higuey, Dominican Republic. They have built a community center, provided water and electricity and opened a school. This school has provided the opportunity for over 300 children to finally receive the education they need to break the cycle of poverty.

What humbly began as one small mission trip has blossomed into an ongoing relationship with the beautiful people in this village. Having the opportunity to meet them, develop relationships and continue to be of service to them has been life changing and faith shaping for all who have had the privilege to travel there.

I am part of the next group that will journey to the Dominican Republic this June to continue the wonderful work begun there five years ago – the necessary work that continues today. Few among our many goals are to begin building model homes, finalize construction on a vocational center and reach out to the poorest of the poor in love and support.

Each mission trip has not just been about the American missionaries, but about the entire community of family, friends and fellow parishioners that have helped to make them a reality. With each trip we have been able to bring more tools, medical supplies, clothes and toys. We need your help. Will YOU join us as we reach out to those less fortunate? Will YOU help to make a difference in the life of a child?

In order to do God's work, we first and foremost need your **prayers!** Without the spiritual sustenance from our friends and families, this trip would not be possible. Secondly, we are asking for your financial support. All funds raised will help to cover the costs of supplies and expenses necessary to help the people of the Dominican Republic. We need to raise \$50,000 to purchase building supplies alone!

We are each asking our friends and family to commit to praying for our trip and to consider sponsoring us on this journey of faith and service. If you are willing to join us either prayerfully or financially, I would be most grateful. You can feel confident that your support is a life changing investment – for both the people of the Dominican Republic and for our team! Help us bring the hope and peace of Jesus Christ to our brothers and sisters in need.

God bless you for your kindness and support.

# Dominican Republic Mission Trip

## Support Form

*Thank you for responding to the call to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters  
in the Dominican Republic.*

**Please complete this form and mail it to:**

**(Insert your name and address here)**

I have prayerfully considered supporting the Dominican Republic Mission Trip, and I will do so in the following way(s):

- I agree to spiritually support the Mission Trip by praying on a regular basis and especially from June 17 – 24, 2013 for the success of the mission.
  
- I agree to financially support the Mission Trip by pledging a one-time donation of: \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number (Mobile): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make all checks payable to Mission Possible.**

*Gifts are tax deductible as allowable by law.*