



Dominican Republic Mission Trip (June 2-9, 2012)
and
FL-GA District Ocala National Forest Servant Event (June 24-30, 2012)
Informational Meeting

October 26, 2011

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

I. Why are we going?

Jesus' command is clear: *Go and make disciples of all nations*. This is the task of every true believer, to share the love of God in Christ Jesus and to change lives now and for eternity. As our Lord demonstrated, the best way to reach those in need of the Gospel is by building relationships and meeting real and tangible needs here and now. With that in mind, our mission trip is being developed to give all participants an opportunity to be Christ's hands and voice.

II. Jesus' Four Tiered Outreach Strategy (Acts 1:8)

- a. Jerusalem
 1. Local area - Ft. Myers
 2. VBS, School, Work, Family
 3. Middle and High School Students and Adults
- b. Judea
 - i. Region – State of Florida
 - ii. SW FL Lutheran Summer Servant Event - June 8-9, 2012
 - iii. Middle School Students
- c. Samaria
 - i. Within general area but a different culture
 - ii. Ocala National Forest, Ocala, FL - June 24-30, 2012
 - iii. High School Students and Adults
- d. Ends of the Earth
 - i. Beyond our borders to a diverse culture
 - ii. The Families in Santiago, Dominican Republic – June 2-9, 2012
 - iii. Intergenerational Team High School Students, College Students, and Adults

III. FL-GA High School Servant Event (Samaria) - Ocala National Forest

- a. Sun., June 24 – Sat., June 30
- b. A Cross Cultural Event?
 - i. Yes, the people we will be serving in the Forest have their own culture!
 - ii. You will experience some things that you would maybe experience on an Indian Reservation or in a different country.
 - iii. Be prepared to work hard, and be ready for God to show you how to reach out to these people of the Forest.
- c. What will we be doing?
 - i. We will be working with the HELP agency. They are a Christian organization that reaches out to the people in the Ocala National Forest through feeding programs, human care projects, after school programs and much more.
 - ii. We will also work with Forest Lutheran Church, an LCMS church that works with HELP and also has other programs of its own to reach out to the needs of the community. The Ocala National Forest is home to many people in need of physical help; we will help with this as well as bringing the Great News of Jesus Christ to the people of the Forest. Some examples of servant activities are:
 - a. Painting a house/trailer
 - b. Repairing someone's house/trailer (some people in the Forest don't have electricity!)
 - c. Spending time with children at a mentor center
 - d. Leading a VBS at Forest Lutheran Church
 - e. Repairing/construction projects at the camp
 - f. Hosting a Community event in the evening with food and entertainment
 - g. Helping with a food outreach event

- d. Who can come?
- i. We are limiting this event to ONLY 150 participants.
 - ii. High School students who have completed their 9th-12th grade year.
 - iii. An adult leader must be at least 21 years of age and understand they are coming to minister to the teenagers at this event. (Any adults who have a specific skill in construction will be a great asset to our event!) *We require a specific ratio of 1 adult leader for every 7 students.*
- e. Where will we be staying?
- i. This event is being held in the Ocala National Forest at the SoZo Camp.
 - ii. All participants will be housed at the camp. There are many cabins and houses that will sleep up to 150 people.
 - iii. We will be sleeping in bunk beds and air mattresses on the floor.
 - iv. All sleeping areas are air-conditioned and have access to bathroom/shower facilities.
 - v. The camp will be providing our food and we are told it is good chow!

f. **Sample Schedule**

Sunday

4:00-6:00 Arrive/Check-In
 6:00 Dinner
 7:00 Orientation
 8:30 Evening Activity
 9:30 Free Time
 11:00 Lights out

Monday-Friday

7:30 Breakfast
 9:00 Leave for work sites
 12:00 Lunch
 1:00 Work
 4:00 Back at camp; shower; free time
 6:00 Dinner
 7:30 Evening Programs
 8:30 Youth Group devotions/debrief
 9:30 Free Time
 11:00 Lights out

Saturday

7:30 Breakfast
 9:00 Closing program
 10:00 Pack up and head out!

*There will be a Wednesday afternoon fun day at Juniper Springs

g. Ocala Servant Event Budget

	Lowest	Highest
Registration/Food/Housing	\$199	\$225
Transportation	\$30	\$50
Supplies	\$10	\$15
T-shirt	\$8	\$10
Agape Gift for Team	\$3	\$5
Emergency Money	\$10	\$15
Total	\$260	\$320

IV. **St. Michael Intergenerational Mission Trip (Ends of the Earth) – Santiago, Dominican Republic**

- a. Sat., June 2 – Sat., June 9
- b. Cross Cultural Event?
 - i. By serving the people of the interior part of the Dominican Republic, we'll get the opportunity to connect with children and adults who have a blend of different ethnicities and economic status living in the city and living in the country.
 - ii. In addition, we may have the opportunity to serve some from that population who are disabled.
- c. What will we be doing?
 - i. Work at Concordia Lutheran in Palmar Arriba (out in the countryside) for about 3 days (possibly painting or other needs – there are 5 teams who will come before us so we will have to wait to know what will be our job)
 - ii. Work at Genesis School in Santiago for about 2 days (possibly painting, light plumbing, etc.)
- d. Who can come?
 - i. We are limiting this event to ONLY 14 participants
 - ii. High School students who have completed their 9th-12th grade year.
 - iii. College Students
 - iv. An adult leader must be at least 21 years of age ((Any adults who have a specific skill in construction will be a great asset to our event!)
 - v. Intergenerational Mission Team Requirements
 - Flexible
 - Loving
 - Caring
 - Compassionate
 - Hard Working
 - Team Player
 - Humble
 - Physically Capable
 - Servant of Christ
 - vi. Ratio 1 adult to 2-4 youth
- e. Where will we be staying? - Hotel Platino – Santiago
 - i. Large Generator
 - ii. AC for each room
 - iii. Phone in each room (hotel has English speaking help)
 - iv. Refrigerator
 - v. TV with cable
 - vi. Safes in each room
 - vii. Nice Restaurant
 - viii. Gazebo in the grass courtyard
 - ix. www.hotelplatinord.com
- f. How do we stay safe in the Dominican Republic?
 - i. At least one translator (possibly 2)
 - ii. Students always travel with adults
 - iii. Anyone person travels with a group of 3 or more (usually very large groups)
 - iv. Only eat in hotel restaurants or one recommended by those who go down regularly
 - v. Don McClain, former US ambassador to DR, is a good friend
 - vi. Buy bottled water (use to drink and brush teeth)
 - vii. Keep passports in safes locked (2 copies with group leaders)
 - viii. Purchase traveling insurance
 - ix. Get recommended shots just in case (TBA)

g. DR Budget

	Low	High
Airline - American	\$410	\$500
Transportation to airport (FM to Miami)	\$35	\$45
Transportation in DR (32 pass bus)	\$90	\$100
Tourist Tax	\$10	\$10
Food	\$175	\$200
Building/Project supplies	\$50	\$75
Ed/VBS supplies & curriculum	\$25	\$35
T-shirts w/logos etc	\$8	\$10
Agape Gift for team (cross or something) 5	\$3	\$5
Meeting Room	\$0	\$7
ER	\$15	\$15
Travel Insurance (Evacuation/Medical)	\$29	\$39
subtotal per person (before housing option)	\$850	\$1,041
With Housing Choice included		
1 Person room	\$1,191	\$1,426
1 Double 2 people	\$1,020	\$1,234
2 Beds 2 people	\$1,130	\$1,339
3 Beds 3 People	\$1,089	\$1,309
2 Beds 4 people	\$1,029	\$1,242

h. **Sample Schedule**

Saturday, June 2

Noon Arrive at SM (pack cars)
 12:30 PM Leave SM
 3:00 PM Arrive at Parking Lot in Miami
 3:30 PM Arrive at Miami International Airport
 Morning Devotions
 6:35 PM Depart on American Airlines
 8:35 PM Arrive in Santiago (clear customs)
 Get settled in to Hotel Platino (809-724-7576)
 Evening Devotions

Sunday, June 3

Worship/Bible study
 Exchange some money if possible at the Cambio
 Shop for lunch, water, and other needs
 Connect with the missionaries
 Evening Devotions

Monday-Friday

Breakfast
 Morning Devotions
 Leave for work (either at Concordia or Genesis)
 Lunch
 Work
 Back at hotel; shower; free time
 Dinner at hotel
 Devotions/debrief
 Free Time
 Lights out

Saturday, June 9

Breakfast
6:45 AM Gather in the Hotel Lobby
7:30 AM Arrive at Santiago Airport
Morning Devotion
8:35 AM Depart on American Airlines
10:405 AM Arrive at Miami International Airport
Clear Customs
Pick up cars from lot (will call parents when we start to drive)
Grab early lunch
Arrive at SM 2.5 hours after leaving

* Wednesday night is when the people of Palmar worship so we will probably be joining them. We will also have a group dinner at some point at a restaurant in the city.

V. Youth Board's Finance Policy

- a. The Youth Board provides opportunities for the youth and adults to raise funds, but this policy puts the responsibility for the success of the fundraisers upon the participation from the youth and their families.
- b. Thanking God for all he has given us, we will tithe (give 10%) of what we fundraise to another ministry
- c. St. Michael supports the youth ministry by budgeting some money to support our points system.
- d. For the best experience on a mission trip, youth and adults begin developing strong relationships with each other now and continue throughout the year.
- e. Therefore, the high school youth and adults will earn credit by participating in youth activities like
 - Worship (must sign attendance book) 1 pt.
 - Sunday School/Bible Class 1 pt.
 - FOCUS (Wed. night) 1 pt.
 - Church related Service projects 1 pt. per hour worked
 - Fundraising 1 pt. per hour worked
- f. Points will be totaled and converted to a dollar value on a quarterly basis. Every quarter will be different based on the total amount of donations and profits earned.
- g. It will be the responsibility of the Youth Board to calculate and fairly distribute funds based on funds available and total points earned. As the Youth Board allocates the funding, it will at the same time ensure that the scholarship opportunities for youth participants who are in need are met, as are the needs of new members and guests of current members.
- h. Each participant can ask to receive a quarterly statement displaying all points earned for that quarter and the funds available in their individual account.
- i. Points are only awarded for items listed.
- j. Funds cannot be used prior to earning them.
- k. The Youth Board has the right to change and amend rules at any time.
- l. Points can not be converted to a dollar amount upon request or in the middle of a quarter.
- m. Family members (middle school and older) can earn points when working at a servant event and/or fundraiser that will be credited to their high school youth's account.
- n. At the end of a fiscal year, students are allowed to keep up to \$200 in their account to roll over into the following year. The rest of the funds will be put in the general fund to assist with scholarships.
- o. All unused funds in a senior participant's account at the end of the fiscal year will be put in the general fund to assist with scholarships unless they have a younger sibling or family member) in (high School) youth group to transfer the money. Funds cannot be donated to a friend.

VI. Fundraising Ideas

- a. Poinsettia Sale starts now!
- b. Sponsor Our Youth Program w/Thank You Meal
- c. Easter Breakfast – Apr. 8
- d. Special Dinner/Drama
- e. Car Wash/Bake Sale
- f. Sending personal letters requesting support from friends/family as partners in mission
- g. Edison Parade Seats

VII. Additional Payments

- a. 3 months before the trip, or no later than early booking for the trip, 50% of the money must be raised or paid by the youth or family. (Early booking may include hotel, bus rental, etc.)
- b. If a youth becomes unable to attend the event and drops out after 3 months before the event, or after early booking for the trip, the youth will still be responsible for covering incurred costs to the group. (This is to cover contracts made by St. Michael for this trip.) There are circumstances where the Director of Nurturing Ministries and Youth Board may deem a refund may be in order or a drop-out is understandable, i.e. illness or death in the family.
- c. 4 weeks before the trip 100% of the money must be raised or paid by the youth or family.

VIII. Ocala Deadlines

- | | | |
|---|----------------|-------------|
| a. Deposit and Application Form: | Nov. 16 | \$25 |
| b. 2 nd Payment | Jan. 8 | \$60 |
| c. Balance: | May 2 | TBA |

Cancellations: Before Mar. 2 – Lose \$25 Deposit
After Mar. 2 – Responsible for whole cost

IX. DR Deadlines

- | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| a. Deposit and Application Form: | Nov. 16 | \$100 |
| b. Additional \$ for airfare | Jan. 8 | Approx. \$400 |
| c. Balance: | May 2 | TBA |

Cancellations: Before Mar. 2 – Lose \$100 Deposit
After Mar. 2 – Responsible for whole cost

X. How will the selection work?

- a. Big Picture – over 4 years in high school gain skills in different types of mission opportunities
- b. Things that will be considered:
 - i. Those who have not gone on a particular mission trip
 - ii. Older first time students (ex. senior verses freshman)
 - iii. Parents attending with child verses adult with no children (except those in leadership for the trip)
 - iv. Keeping our ratio goals
 - v. Skills and experiences for tasks needed
- c. By Nov. 22 we will contact you to let you know if you are on the team.

XI. What does my commitment mean?

- a. Preparing to be one in spirit, vision and more!
- b. Therefore, please plan on the following commitments:
 - i. Praying for the team and those we serve
 - ii. Group meetings
 - 1. Ocala Team will probably just meet once before they go
 - 2. DR Team will probably about 1 every 6 weeks with the first meeting to be in Jan. (TBA)
 - iii. Participate in the fundraisers if possible
 - iv. Participate in congregational presentation after trips
- c. DR Participants will need a passport (<http://travel.state.gov/passport/>)

- XII. What do I do?
- a. Pray
 - b. Fill out application for one or both mission trips
 - c. Reasons for wanting to serve
 - d. Share your leadership skills
 - e. Vital contact information
 - f. More specific forms will come once we know who is going
 - g. Adults have a background check on file (form, copy SS Card & drivers license, and \$45)
 - h. Make out a check to St. Michael for **\$100 Nonrefundable** Deposit (DR) or \$25 Nonrefundable (Ocala) (DR will be refunded if there is not enough room)
 - i. Bring application and money to Lori by
 - j. Start making plans for fundraising**
 - k. Pray!**