



EASTERN DOMINICAN CHRISTIAN MISSION
PLANTING CHRIST IN THE HEARTS OF OTHERS

VANDELINDE FAMILY
PARTNERSHIP PACKET

"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



THE NEED

Please Send all Financial Contributions to:

Eastern Dominican Christian Mission

c/o John and Angie Vaughn
4615 Sand Hill Lane
Knoxville, TN 37918

Contact:

Ryan Vandelinde

5647 Starkey Road
Roanoke, VA 24018

P: 540.798.6997

E: ryanvandelinde@hotmail.com

For More Information:

www.easterndominican.com

THE NEED | DOMINICAN CULTURE

The Dominican Republic shares the island of Hispaniola with the country of Haiti. In many aspects, one would classify the Dominican Republic as "third world." In other aspects, it's a "first world" country and therefore could be considered a land of paradoxes. You can see a horse-drawn cart carrying produce on the street, with the man driving the cart talking on a cell phone! One of the poorer barrios in La Romana, Rio Salado, is only one or two kilometers from the world class resort of Casa de Campo, where villas rent for \$1000 a night in the high season.

The official religion of the Dominican Republic is Catholicism with 95% of the population claiming it as their religion. However, the Library of Congress reports that most Dominicans' religious practice is "limited and formalistic". As a result, most Dominicans know religion to be something of tradition rather than of faith. Many Dominicans do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, with a mere 2% claiming to be Evangelicals. The Library of Congress also states, "Many people feel that they could best approach God through intermediaries- the clergy, the saints, witches (brujos), and curers (curanderos)...Curanderos consulted the saints to ascertain which herbs, roots, and various home cures to employ. Witches (burjos) also cured by driving out possessive spirits that sometimes seized an individual."

The people of the Dominican Republic desperately need to know about the saving grace of Jesus. John 3:16 is a popular verse that reminds us that God loved the world and that is why he sent his son, Jesus. John 3:17 reminds us that Jesus came to save the world.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

JOHN 3:16-17



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MEETING THE NEED

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MEETING THE NEED

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

LUKE 9:10

Jesus meets our need for a Savior. It is his commandment in the book of Matthew that compels us to go throughout the world and share the gospel.

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

MATTHEW 28:18-20

Because of this Great Commission, we are dedicating our lives to going throughout the world and sharing the gospel message of Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus is "the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6)." The Dominican Republic is a place full of people who need to hear, deserve a chance to hear, and will hear about the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

The Christian Church/Church of Christ has been involved in missionary work in the Dominican Republic since 1974. Several missionaries, including the Gordon Thompson family, Bill and Ginny Loft, Billy and Bette Loft, Rick and Suzanne York and others have labored throughout the island. There are approximately 100 congregations associated with this non-denominational church movement. Each congregation is autonomous and strives to pattern their church life according to Biblical norms.



THE MISSION | JOINING THE MISSION

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THE MISSION

Rick and Suzanne York established *Eastern Dominican Christian Mission* to help plant self-sustaining churches in the eastern section of the Dominican Republic. Churches have been planted in La Romana and in Punta Cana. Future plans include a church plant in the eastern half of the capital city of Santo Domingo, San Pedro de Macorís, Hato Mayor and other cities in this growing area of the country. Plans for a camp/conference center are also underway to support the needs of the growing church plants.

JOINING THE MISSION

We have prayerfully sought God's guidance in seeking a cross-cultural ministry where God can ignite our hearts as we use the gifts He has given us. As an answer to our prayers, God has opened doors for us to serve as a part of Eastern Dominican Christian Mission.

We both have desired to serve God in cross-cultural ministries since we were teenagers. God has faithfully fueled that passion with short-term mission trips and ministries within our own communities. Since my graduation from Johnson Bible College, I, Ryan have served as the minister to youth at New Hope Christian Church in Roanoke, Virginia. That ministry opportunity has blessed me as I encouraged the youth of the congregation to grow spiritually while being surrounded by a body of believers that also encouraged our spiritual growth.

After the birth of our son Micah in 2006, Erin devotes most of her time to raising him. However, she works part time outside of the home as a birth doula and parent educator with expecting families and families with new babies. She is passionate about supporting healthy, happy families and feels it is an honor to be able to minister to families as they welcome a new baby into the world. Through our ministries, God has given us the opportunity to grow in our knowledge and experience as He has prepared our hearts and minds for full-time missionary work.

With God's leading, we intend to begin full-time mission work by joining the Eastern Dominican Christian Mission team. God has given us an incredible gift in allowing us to work alongside veteran missionaries Rick and Suzanne York to encourage, guide, motivate and facilitate the work of the national leadership. We intend to garnish as much knowledge as possible from their decades of experience as well as offer our own gifts and abilities to serve the people of the Dominican Republic.





OUR PLAN

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OUR PLAN

While we would love to immediately begin our ministry as a part of Eastern Dominican Christian Mission, we feel that it is essential to be able to communicate directly with the people of the Dominican Republic in order to help plant churches. As a result, we intend to begin our full-time service as students at the *Spanish Language Institute* in Costa Rica (January 2009). For approximately one year, we will participate in a Spanish immersion program while living in a Spanish speaking country to help prepare us for our work in the Dominican Republic. During this time, our son will attend a preschool program that will also help him prepare for the transition to a new culture and language.

Upon graduation, we intend to relocate our family to the Dominican Republic and join God's ministry already in progress. We will partner with the Eastern Dominican Christian Mission team to help plant self-sustaining churches in the Dominican Republic. We, together with veteran missionaries Rick and Suzanne York, will work to strategically help meet the needs, primarily spiritual needs, of the Dominicans. Our ministry opportunities will include church planting, leadership training and discipleship.

2008

AUG

AUG-DEC Ryan and Erin will be available to speak on behalf of EDCM to raise funds needed for full-time missionary service.

3 Ryan will resign as Minister to Youth at New Hope Christian Church and begin full-time service with EDCM.

26 - SEP 2 The Vandelinde family will travel to the DR to meet with missionaries and ministers currently serving with EDCM in the Dominican Republic.

OCT

10-12 The Vandelinde Family will attend EDCM's annual board meeting.

NOV

10 Registration due for the Spanish Language Institute (Costa Rica) and payment for the first trimester classes for Erin and Ryan and preschool for Micah.

17-25 Ryan will travel to the Dominican Republic to participate in a short term mission trip with New Hope Christian Church. During which time, the team will work on building many of the facilities for the church plant in Punta Cana.

DEC

Ryan and Erin will finalize preparations to move to Costa Rica for language training.

2009

JAN

6 Ryan and Erin begin orientation for classes in Costa Rica for language school.

MAR

10 Tuition due for the Spanish Language Institute for second trimester classes and preschool.

MAY

6 Ryan and Erin will begin second trimester of classes.

JULY

1 Tuition due for the Spanish Language Institute and payment for the third trimester classes and preschool.

SEP

1 Ryan and Erin will begin the third and final trimester of classes.

DEC

Mid-DEC Return to the United States for the holidays with the family and to prepare for our relocation to the Dominican Republic.

2010

JAN

The Vandelinde family will move to La Romana, Dominican Republic.



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OUR PARTNERS

We are so excited to be able to look at what God has in store for us during the next few years. We hope that you will prayerfully consider partnering with us as we embark on this great adventure. There are two ways that we would like to ask for your support.

Prayer Partner: As a prayer partner, we ask that you pray for us regularly. We have sought God's guidance through the process as we move towards becoming full-time missionaries. We ask that you seek His guidance when deciding what role you will play as part of the EDCM team. We also ask you to pray for God's continual support and guidance for us as a family as we begin to fulfill our roles as missionaries.

Financial Partner: As a financial partner, we will be partnering together to meet the needs of the Dominican nationals as we focus our full-time work on planting self-sustaining churches. By accepting God's calling to the Dominican Republic, we are giving up our paying jobs to accept a position that requires us to raise our own financial support. We have estimated a cost of approximately \$40,000 for us to reside in Costa Rica while attending language school. Rick and Suzanne York, the missionaries currently serving in the Dominican Republic, have told us that we could anticipate the need for a \$40,000 income while living in the Dominican Republic.

Estimated Costs:

August – December 2008: \$13,000

January – December 2009 (Costa Rica): \$40,200

January – December 2010 (Dominican Republic): \$40,000

During 2009, your financial support will allow us to attend the Spanish Language Institute and develop the much needed language skills to serve the Spanish speaking culture of the Dominican Republic. It will also allow Micah to attend a preschool staffed by bilingual Christian people so that he will also be able to make the transition to living in a Spanish speaking culture. During 2010, your financial support will allow us to move to the Dominican Republic and provide the necessities a family needs. Your support will allow us to serve full-time as we train Dominican nationals to become leaders in new church plants and encourage and support the growing church already established in the DR.





CONTACT US

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CONTACT US

If you are considering supporting us financially, there are a few ways in which you may do so. You may make a one time contribution to Eastern Christian Dominican Mission, or you may commit to making a monthly contribution to the mission. We are grateful for any and all financial donations and we hope you will consider being a financial partner to us.

Please send all financial contributions to our forwarding agents:

Eastern Dominican Christian Mission
c/o John and Angie Vaughn
4615 Sand Hill Lane
Knoxville, TN 37918

Please make all checks out to Eastern Dominican Christian Mission or EDCM.

All your financial support will go directly to support the VandeLinde family and our ministry through EDCM.

For more information, to arrange a time to meet with Ryan and Erin or to discuss becoming a partner with us, please contact Ryan at 540.798.6997 or at ryanvandelinde@hotmail.com.

You may find out more about EDCM by visiting their website at www.easterndominican.com. You can also follow the "VandeLinde Family" link on the left side of the home page for more information about us.