

A. Craig's Video

B. Tim's time

Photo's on the wall in fellowship hall. By next week there will be many more. And next week you will be able to take home one of the pieces of art from the children (with a photo). We are going to suggest you do it for a donation ... and the proceeds will go to feed and educate these same children for the next year. But, if you don't want to give ANOTHER donation, we want you to have one too. We hope to have enough for one per family.

There are many COOL & FUN things that happen on our Mission Trips. It is not ALL about 100 degree days, and working till you drop. But the days are about WORK. So today, I have asked **the team** to focus on the spiritual aspects of the trip, the WORK we did ... and what that work did to them. What did God show them in the Dominican? Were they challenged spiritually by what they saw.

So we will not talk much about the fun times or the entertainment times. Why? Because, we don't want anyone desiring to attend our future trips simply because of the fun. If that's why someone wants to go on our Dominican Trips ... they are **not** going to enjoy their self at all. But, if they come planning to work and work **hard** ... then any fun that is thrown in, will be considered a luxury.

Now ... just because I surprised this year's group with some of our fun; I think the exact quote was, "Wow Tim! You didn't tell us about this." ... Because of that, I am going to quickly show you **a couple of photos** ... of the fun in the Dominican. (1-5)

We had one half day off (Sunday after church) ... and a couple of evenings out to eat (every other evening it was ham sandwiches, Raman Noodles or spaghetti in our rooms).

BUT ... and I can't emphasize this enough, I don't want any of the previous photos to be the reason that you would consider coming with us on a trip to the Dominican Republic.

Look at **THESE** photos, this is what the Dominican Republic Mission Trip is all about.

Building homes. (1-5)

Teaching Children. (1-4)

Feeding hungry people. (1-3)

(Buying a generator) (1)

(Provide pews) (2)

I want you to listen closely to everything that will be said today, from this point forward ... and make your mind if this trip is for you or not.

Here is an email that I got from **Richard Taylor**: Missionary to Sabaneta.

Emotions run deep on the Calle de Guenpan when the love of Christ is poured out so freely. It was a great privilege to have the team from the First Christian Church of Dyer, IN in Sabaneta last week. They were a very diverse group of nine (ages 12 to 74), who were totally unafraid to get down and dirty with the neighborhood kids. They played hard, worked hard, sang loud and truly shared the love of Christ with the kids in the neighborhood. By the end of their week in Sabaneta, I could hardly find a dry eye in the soup kitchen as they said their good-byes. What a great

thing it is to see the love of God in action! My thanks to Pastor Tim York and his very humble team for coming and sharing with us. – Richard Taylor

And now ... we are going to hear from that team. I will introduce each person with a couple of brief comments, and then they will share their thoughts about the trip.

C. Intro of team

1. **Justus** – Our youngest, and tied with me for the most experienced Dominican Mission worker. All the little Dominican girls loved him until they couldn't get him interested, then many of them got angry with him. But by the end of the week they were all enjoying him again. Our team took communion in front of the church ... and many were surprised that Justus took communion at such an early age. Hopefully, his example as a Christian will cause many of them to consider accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior.
2. **Janet** – Jane was our oldest worker. But it did not hold her back. She jumped in with both feet, and despite the language barriers she was always doing something (usually some kind of play) with the children. I hope her going will inspire some of our other senior citizens to consider going. We got her back safe & sound.
3. **Faith** – I was excited to see Faith in action. And she was like a party in a can. The children loved her ... the way she joined them in their dances, the way she would play baseball with the boys, the way that she would beat the boys in arm wrestling ... even though I think they were arm wrestling just to hold her hand. It was great to see Faith live out her faith.

4. **Katie** – Out of all the people that we took, I was probably most nervous about Katie. Why? Because I had her pegged wrong. I was thinking she was a girlie girl, and would hate the heat, the dirt, and the smells. BUT NO! Katie is my kind of girl! Not afraid to sweat, not afraid to work, not afraid to get down and dirty with the children. She also did a great job of teaching the students about Joseph on her teaching day.
5. **Mandy** – Better known as “Mommy” to many of the children. Most days you would find her with a baby in her hand or a couple of children hanging off of her. She was also our nurse by default, and was on the construction crew of the Dominican’s Best Outhouse.
6. **Nick** – Nick was our main translator for our team. He did very well with that. He was also a force on the construction team of the houses. And, he played the lead role in most of our skits. He was a donkey, Goliath, and Jesus to name a few. The children loved hanging out with Nick
7. **Rich** – I am SO glad that Rich Thiel went with us. He is a man of many talents. He was our foreman on the construction site. And he wasn’t just a supervisor ... he was probably the hardest working person on our team. He led our work team, and a good crew of Haitians throughout the week. He couldn’t speak a bit of Spanish, but somehow he communicated EVERYTHING that he needed to get the job done, and done well.
8. **Craig** – Craig was our “do everything” man. He could translate a little. He was on the construction team, and led the construction of Dominican’s best outhouse. He also did a great job of teaching on Abraham and Isaac. So great, that someone from the crowd actually stopped him from stabbing Justus who was playing Isaac. I think he

enjoyed working with the children most ... so I may be in need another person for the construction team next year.

9. **Tim** – Then it comes to me. I got to teach 3 days in VBS. Creation & Noah; David & Goliath (The kids actually stood and cheered when Nick fell to the ground acting out Goliath's death). And finally I got to teach about Jesus dying on the cross for us. It was really cool to see the students cheer the resurrected Jesus, after they had seen Him be nailed to the cross.

I also got to preach on Sunday. 3 hour service!

I was impacted by how needy everyone is ... and how NEEDED we are. My body does not do well in their heat and humidity ... I get heat bumps all over my body ... which are embarrassing, and eventually begin to hurt. But, if I can ever get those taken care of; **and** I can learn the language ... I want to offer so much more to this little community.

I want to see **the children** grow up and fall in love with Jesus!

Here's what I want to say to you as a church: "Thank you!" WE joined together and we gave shelter to those who needed it. We FED those who were hungry. We gave clothing to those needed it. And we taught the children of their need for Jesus Christ as Savior.

D. Conclude with **1 John 4:19**

How did God choose to send salvation to us? Did He just write out a big check and say, "There, that should cover it?" NO!

He sent Himself – in the form of Jesus Christ.

We are ALL commanded to GO and make disciples. We have this opportunity in the Dominican to do just that. No one else is really doing that with these children. I am going to continue to ask you to partner with me (with us) as we reach this little community in Sabaneta.

Love is best served up in person. So ... I want you to consider going with us on our next trip.

This last song is Titled "I Refuse". The author is refusing to sit still and do nothing why the world dies around us.

I hope you enjoy it.