



Dominican Republic Trip 2012  
'Surrendered & Satisfied'  
Information Packet

Dear Parents,

This packet of information will give you an idea of what we are doing this summer and will hopefully answer some preliminary questions. It's exciting to look forward to our summer trip! I love missions for a couple of reasons. First, personally I get pushed by God on these trips in ways that have had lasting impressions on my life. Secondly, I don't know of another venue where I've seen the lives of students drawn more to God than on these trips. It is truly a privilege to lead and to be a part of them.

We do these trips because the focus of them is very close to the heart of our Savior. Some have said that there are nearly 2 billion lost people on this planet who will not have an opportunity to hear the message of Jesus unless someone goes cross-culturally to share with them. Beyond the Gospel it is evident that there is a great need for Christ followers to step forward and provide basic humanitarian help wrapped in the message/name of our Savior.

If we want our generation of young people to carry the baton of world missions beyond our reach, it is a must that we provide opportunities for them to be exposed to missions of all kinds. Having our students minister to the needs of the world first hand serves as a valuable investment in the future as they become missionaries and enthusiastic supporters of missions. I love seeing students engaging in missions beyond their High School experiences.

Because this is such an important task, we take our summer mission trip very seriously. We consider this to be a 3 month project rather than a 10-day trip. The first months are spent training here in Nebraska so that the ministry in the Dominican Republic (and possibly Haiti) can be maximized.

As you and your son or daughter consider if God would want them to pursue going on this trip know that I'm praying for that process. I look forward to who God will lead to go on this trip and what He will do through this experience. As questions come to your mind beyond what is covered in this material please feel free to shoot me an email or to give me a call. God bless!

-Brad Zook

(Note: This application is due on March 7 in the Oasis mail box with a refundable \$50 deposit. Please do not turn it in until the application has been read in its entirety by both parent and student.)

## I. OUR VISION AND PURPOSE

The purpose of the trip is to help fulfill the Great Commission of Christ in Matthew 28:19-20 through the following:

- 1) **To expose many to the great news of Jesus and His offer of a personal relationship with God (Mt. 28:19-20, Rom. 10:14-15).**
  - To minister Christ's love and compassion to the needy (James 2:14-17).
  - To show God's love to children by leading VBS's that impact them for Jesus (Mt. 18:5).
  
- 2) **To develop our students into others-centered Christ followers. An others-centered Christ follower is uncharacteristically unselfish with time, service, money and prayer.**
  - To challenge the students to become Christ followers who give sacrificially, pray globally, and seriously consider missions as a vocation.
  - To develop a concern for the lost and a willingness to go beyond the secure peer group into the unknown of outreach.
  - To increase our burden for, and understanding of, missions and the world.
  - To be challenged in our own finances by exposure to the shocking poverty of the rest of the world.
  - To shift the focus of attention from ourselves to others.
  - To understand the joy that comes from service to God.
  
- 3) **To encourage and edify the local church.**

## II. OUR MINISTRY

We will be ministering in city of Guachupita. There are six main areas of ministry for our trip:

- 1) Vacation Bible School for the children.
- 2) Sharing Christ with the townspeople (with the help of translators).
- 3) Worshipping with and leading the believers in church services.
- 4) Helping with some much needed construction projects.
- 5) Prayer Ministry.
- 6) Community service / humanitarian work.

Our ministry will be tied in with the local church so that they can follow up on those who make decisions for Christ. Our daily schedule starts off with meeting together in the morning for quiet times, preparation for the day, and breakfast. The students will be divided into groups and will spend a part of their day either working on VBS, construction or evangelism. In the evening we will be having group meetings and outreach opportunities.

### III. OUR PREPARATION

Because this trip is designed to expose students to missions and to give them a vision for being others centered, the preparation for the trip is very intense. In addition to the hours of group ministry training, the missionaries will be doing the following personal preparation:

- 1) Memorizing Spanish words and phrases
- 2) Learning a Spanish Evangelism tract and committing to memory the main sections
- 3) Fasting and praying
- 4) Memorizing scripture
- 5) Journaling with daily devotionals
- 6) Writing out their personal testimony

### IV. DATES

Give or take 1-2 days on both ends of these dates. We will leave Omaha on **June 23<sup>rd</sup>** and return on **July 3<sup>rd</sup>**. This trip is very close to the date when school let's out, especially with snow days considered. Our time frame with working with Miguel Shaul was very limited so that is the reason for such an early trip.

### V. FINANCES

There are two parts to attaining funds for this trip. First, there is an out of pocket cost of \$500 that each student must pay. Secondly, there is a letter writing process in which each student should raise \$500. (Therefore, we want each student to bring in \$1000 total.) For the letter writing, each participant will send out a minimum of 20 letters to friends and/or family asking for financial support. If this second \$500 amount cannot be raised fully, the participant will incur the rest as an additional out-of-pocket cost. Instructions on the letter writing process will be provided. The remainder of the trips expenses are covered by the youth missions budget.

A \$50 deposit check should be attached to the application (this is applied to the cost of the trip). Passport, vaccinations, and airport meals are additional charges that each student will incur.

\*Those who still owe money from previous mission trips will be asked to pay off their current balance before applying for this trip.

### VI. APPLICATIONS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN MARCH 7!

***Please read all of this material before filling out your application***

First, let me say...way to go by taking an application for this trip! We're several months away from this trip taking place but I'm already really excited for it!

I need to very clearly communicate the responsibilities for those who go. It's a lot of work. We meet for 3 months of training before we go and you'll need to make sure that you can attend most, if not all of these meetings.

Most of all, you will need a servant's heart, a positive attitude and a willingness to work hard without losing your God-focus and without goofing around. If you can do that and you're passionate about loving God, you'll be able to handle this trip. So fill out the application and turn it in by Wednesday, March 7!

Below is key information for you read through.

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Who should go?       | At this level of missions, students do not focus on nurturing their own spiritual growth as much as doing ministry for others. Students need to clearly understand that this will not be an exotic, vacation-like trip. We encounter very hot weather, poor living conditions, strange tasting foods, and challenging ministry experiences. We need to accept these challenges with cheerful attitudes, as ambassadors for Christ   |
| Who should not go?   | If we believe a student would <u>not</u> thoroughly follow the instructions of adult leaders or would be a distraction to the spiritual growth of others (through excessive rowdiness, sarcasm or lack of focus), he/she will be encouraged to wait another year. The character, attitudes, and behavior of all participants must reflect their understanding and acceptance of their role as ambassadors of Christ. Because of the nature and intensity of this experience, we cannot accept students who do not attend Oasis regularly. We find it difficult to oversee, discipline, and protect students whom we do not know and have no personal relationship to their families.  |
| Application Approval | <p>A team of adult leaders from the youth ministry will review applications and determine acceptance. After review, applicants will receive a phone call or postcard informing them if they were accepted or not accepted for this trip. <b>Deposits will be refunded to students if their applications are not accepted.</b> We are excited about each applicant's desire to take this step in their spiritual development. Even if we determine a student is not ready this year, we would encourage a student to reapply next year. A student's acceptance will be determined by an examination of the following qualifications:</p> <p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Already has a personal relationship with Christ</li><li>Teachable spirit</li><li>Not prone to distract others</li><li>Respectful to adults</li><li>Not prone to sarcasm</li></ul> |

Sincere desire to grow spiritually  
Not prone to complain  
Overall social and spiritual maturity  
Ministry mindset as evidenced in our group

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Team Guidelines | <p>Living together as a community or a team presents unique challenges. As such, we must set certain behavioral guidelines to ensure that a group this size maintains unity and a ministry focus. We are striving to be ambassadors of the Gospel and we don't want anything to detract from that. The following points are areas where students need to be very aware of how their actions will affect others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We must not flirt with each other or pursue romantic interests. Physical attraction can be a powerful distraction from the intensity of the spiritual experience God has for us.</li><li>• We must show restraint from excessive rowdiness and recognize that there is an appropriate time and place for horseplay.</li><li>• We must refrain from making sarcastic remarks. Sarcasm tends to set a critical tone. We want to strive for an environment of encouragement where people feel supported and affirmed.</li><li>• We must demonstrate respect for others by being on time for various activities and meetings.</li></ul> |
| Dates           | June 23 <sup>rd</sup> – July 3 <sup>rd</sup> (Dates may need to adjust by a day or two depending on airline ticket availability)  |
| Location        | Guachupita, Dominican Republic (Going to Haiti is a possibility in light of recent events. Know that the U.S. Department of State typically does not recommend travel to Haiti. That said we rely on military contacts, local missionaries and others on the ground as we make decisions about going into Haiti. These contacts have much more specific information pertaining to the areas in which we would travel to. If we feel like the safety of our group will be compromised we will adjust trip plans accordingly.)  |
| Health Issues   | Students will receive instructions on any needed shots or health concerns in the pre-trip training.   |
| Ministry        | We will be working with Miguel Shaul (a key missionary of Brookside Church). We will primarily be doing evangelism, prayer ministry, running a children's VBS, community service, and giving humanitarian aide.   |
| Miscellaneous   | Living conditions will be primitive. We will likely sleep on the floor, and we may not have running water. Weather is very hot.   |

### **Training Schedule (Subject to modification)**

- Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 12:15-1:30 pm
- Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> 6:00-6:30 (check in only)
- Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> 12:15-1:30 pm
- Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:00-6:30 (check in only)
- Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 6:45-8:30
- Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 12:15-1:30
- Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> 5:00-6:00
- Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> 6:45-8:30

### **Primary Training Requirements**

- attend all meetings
- memorize 20 verses
- learn evangelism illustrations
- learn an evangelism tract
- memorize Spanish words/phrases
- read a book together as a team
- bible reading/journaling

## Please type the answers to these questions on a separate piece of paper. Put numbers with each answer to identify question.

1. Why would you like to apply for this mission's trip?
2. It is of critical importance that you work well with others. Are you willing to follow policies and leadership even though you might not totally agree with them in every situation? If "No", why not?

### **Expression of Christian Faith**

3. What is one area of growth that you have seen in your life in the last year?
4. Are you presently involved in any ministry to other people? If so, what is it?
5. How comfortable are you with sharing the Gospel? (1=I'd rather handle snakes; 10=Call me Billy Graham)
6. Indicate experience in the following:
  - A. Share testimony: (1 = never, 5 = a couple times, 10 = tell it alot)
  - B. Evangelism: (1 = never, 5 = a couple times, 10 = a lot of people)
7. Please tell us about how you spend your time with God and how often.
8. Share with us one thing God might be speaking to you about.
9. Please describe one personal weakness and how you perceive that it might affect the team.
10. Describe one way your relationship with Christ has affected your life or changed you.
11. Someone asks you, "How can I know Jesus personally?" What would you tell them? Share verses to support your answer.

### **Lifestyle Issues** (Note: we believe that Jesus Christ can and does change lives. Honestly answering these questions will not necessarily disqualify you from this trip.)

\*\*\*Talk with Brad about any of these questions if you feel it's too personal to write down.

12. Are you living a sexually pure lifestyle? Are you in an immoral relationship?
13. Do you currently use or have you used alcohol in the last 2 years? If "yes", please explain.
14. Have you ever used narcotics, hallucinogens, or illegal drugs not prescribed by a physician? If "yes", please explain.
15. Have you ever encountered pornography? If "yes", please explain. If so, how often? Please give us the date of your most recent involvement/visit to a pornography site. If you have stopped engaging in internet porn, who are you accountable to? If you have not stopped, what steps are you willing to take to correct this problem?
16. Have you ever struggled with cutting, or an eating disorder such as bulimia or anorexia?
17. Is there anything in your life, if made known, would hinder your witness or be a negative to your ministry, family, Oasis, or Brookside?

Please attach and turn in to the Oasis Mail Box:

- 1. Typed answers**
- 2. Signature page**
- 3. Prayer Warriors/Unsaved Friends Sheet**
- 4. Staple together with deposit**

**Check**

- I am willing to attend all training meetings unless I am out of town or have an urgent excuse.
- I am willing to become a prayer warrior for this trip.
- I am willing to sacrifice to devote extended time with God.
- I am willing to complete my course work and I understand that if I don't, I will not go on this trip.
- I want to be held accountable to demonstrate a cheerful, teachable spirit and a servant's heart.
- I want to totally surrender to God in this experience and see how He uses me.
- I will enthusiastically support and obey all authority and leaders.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

**\*\*Students whose applications are not accepted will receive a full refund of their deposit.\*\***

In the case that my child's application is originally accepted but later he/she is not allowed to go to the Dominican/Haiti because their conduct is not appropriate for a trip of this nature, I agree to split the costs with Brookside. In this case, I would pay approx. \$500 and Brookside would pay the remaining balance.

The only exception to this would be if the trip is cancelled by Brookside Church.

**I have read all of this application, discussed this trip with my child, understand the demands of the trip, and affirm that my child meets the criteria to apply.**

**If my child's application is accepted, I accept the responsibility of the payment of \$525 and the support letter process. I am attaching a deposit check for \$50**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

**PRAYER WARRIORS**

We ask you to enlist Prayer Warriors who will commit to pray for you prior to, and during, the mission’s trip. These people should not just be anyone who is a Christian. It is best to identify people who will effectively pray and do battle for you while you are there. **(You must ask their permission before listing them.)**

**Please Print All Information**

\_\_\_\_\_ Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Address

\_\_\_\_\_ Address

\_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip

\_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip

\_\_\_\_\_ Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Address

\_\_\_\_\_ Address

\_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip

\_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip

**MY FOUR FRIENDS WHO NEED CHRIST**

We ask each member of the team, including leaders list FOUR unsaved friends that you will pray for prior to, and during the trip. We also ask that upon your return you share about your trip with these friends and hopefully the Gospel as well as God leads you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Name