



## *Leader Handbook : Why bother?*

You already know everything in here, right? This is your 4<sup>th</sup> MannaDR trip, or you've led a team *somewhere* or been on a mission trip *sometime*.

Well, maybe you do have everything covered. Read this anyway. We promise it will make your team's week *more* ... More moving, more impactful, more excellent for the kingdom and cause of Christ.

Plus, there will be a pop quiz and Brian reserves the right to leave your team stranded at the airport if you don't pass. (Just kidding ... kind of.)

## *Welcome.*

Welcome to MannaDR's youth mission program. We hope this experience will draw your team closer to God and help you better see the world the way Jesus sees it.

For one week, your team will be involved in ministries that focus on being Jesus to people in word and action. You will have an opportunity to reach hurting, needful people and demonstrate the love of Christ.

We pray that your team will see how God can, and will, use your lives to make a real difference in a world of suffering and need. May God bless you richly as you dedicate your effort to His will.

*- MannaDR Staff*

## *Why we're here.*

MannaDR Youth Mission Program exists to expand your view of

- **The World:** Experience life in a developing country.
- **The Kingdom:** Serve alongside missionaries and discover how (and where) your talents can make a difference.
- **God:** Know His love more fully, and seek His desires for your life.

## *What will we do?*

We'll work and we'll play. We'll reflect and pray and praise. Every week is different, but remember: *It's not about you.* It's about bringing glory to God's kingdom in the Dominican Republic.

Some experiences will resonate strongly, others will be difficult, times of stretching and growing. A synopsis of potential service opportunities is below. The MannaDR team will prepare and email a detailed schedule before your trip according to the needs and conditions at the time.

Life and ministry in a developing country is NOTHING if not flexible. We're not on our home turf. (Are we ever?) So, be flexible. No guarantees. Be flexible.

**HINT:** The pop quiz at the airport might feature the above section... Something about... Flexibility?

- **Reflect.** Quiet time in the morning, and devotions at night.
- **Worship.** The local church worships at the Manna camp on Sunday mornings.
- **Teach.** Plan a VBS to teach children about God's love.
- **Work.** Paint, mix concrete or do simple construction at local homes, schools or churches.
- **Play.** The kids that live at the children's homes or in the village look forward to teams all year.
- **Commune.** Share a morning and a meal with a Dominican family in their home.
- **Comfort.** Sing, pray and visit with the suffering at the Puerto Plata Hospital.
- **Feed.** Provide a meal for the Haitians and Dominicans who live on the garbage dump.
- **Reach.** Host a youth talent/skit/game/movie night at the Outreach Center in Rio San Juan.
- **Climb.** Some teams are able to make the extreme hike to El Morrito, a remote mountain village.
- **Relax.** Shop in Rio San Juan, sunbathe and body surf at our favorite beach, Playa Grande.

## *What do I need to do prepare?*

Well, you're the leader. You're bringing American teens to a developing country to serve God. It's a big deal, a responsibility. A week like no other, but ... it's so important to prepare your team.

Lives are changed here. The degree to which that happens, in large part, depends on you - the leader.

Maybe you've done this before. Make it better. More excellent. Go the extra mile. Prepare your team, call them to a higher level. God will show up ... He will not disappoint. In ALL things, He deserves the best we can give Him, both at home *and* in the Dominican Republic.

**So, the following is what you, as leader, MUST have prepared.** Seriously, don't get on a plane and fly across the ocean without having done this stuff.

# Prepare for the week.

- **Meet.** This goes without saying, right? Your team should meet regularly to plan, pray and practice for their mission and ministry in the Dominican Republic. Learn about the history and culture of the country you're traveling to. Know basic Spanish phrases. Hold each other accountable. Delegate and divide into smaller teams to prepare worship, VBS and Outreach Center times. Again, call each other to a higher level. You're coming to the Dominican to share and show the love of Jesus. Share it well
- **Morning quiet time & evening devotions:** Have team members bring a journal and a Bible for morning quiet times. Choose someone (before you leave) to guide the praise and discussion each night. Questions such as "For what moment today am I most grateful? Least grateful? When did I feel most alive today? Least alive?" (*Sleeping with Bread*, Linn, 1996.) or "Where did you see Jesus today?" help reflect on the day's experiences.
- **Sunday worship:** Choose someone to prepare and share the message. Think outside the box. Interaction and discussion are welcome, and a translator will be available. Also, it's a great encouragement when teams share songs and readings in Spanish and English.
- **VBS.** Coordinating with the MannaDR staff, choose a theme. Perhaps a Bible story or a focus on a Christian value. Teams are encouraged to choose a theme that draws upon the 2009 theme, *"It's not about me!"*
  - Prepare drama, skits, puppets, stories and songs to bring the message to life. Speakers need to be comfortable with the Spanish words. Or, have a Spanish speaker record audio tracks beforehand. Bring the CD and a player with speakers and batteries.
  - Prepare games and crafts to compliment the theme. Dominican children love art and expressing themselves creatively, so going the extra mile on the crafts would be worth it. Bring all supplies with you, including a snack (crackers, cookies or candy) to hand out at the end. Emphasize the importance of connecting with the children - helping them with crafts or playing or singing together.
  - The VBS should last an hour and a half, start to finish. Most teams will do the same VBS a total of 3 times for different children. Prepare for at least 75 children at each VBS. Check with MannaDR staff for closer estimates.
  - Okay. Deep breath. We're raising the bar here. **New requirement:** Perform your VBS for your church, youth group, or children's ministry before you come. Seriously. Brian's going to ask you at the airport.

# Prepare for the week. (cont'd)

- **Hospital & Dump.**
  - Emphasize the importance of connecting with people, praying with them and blessing them in Spanish or English. Don't be afraid to touch those in the hospital or at the dump. Touch has healing power. Key Spanish phrases are included in this handbook.
  - Prepare care packs for adults filled with travel toiletries, pen, paper, and/or small Spanish Bible. Prepare for children by adding small toys and/or crayons. Teams will hand out care packs at the hospital and at the dump. Prepare approximately 200 care packs for adults and 100 children. Asking for your church's help collecting and assembling supplies is a great way to involve them.
  
- **Outreach Center.** Prepare fun youth group activities for the Rio San Juan teens. Think youth group, not Sunday night church. Games, skits and talents are awesome. Bring all supplies, and check with MannaDR staff before you head to the DR for culture cues (games that are too messy or wasteful).
  
- **Attire.**
  - Closed shoes are mandatory for work projects, hospital and dump visits. No sandals, not even Keens. Bring work gloves for each team member for work projects.
  - Boys should bring long pants, girls bring (at least knee length) skirts and short-sleeve shirts for church, VBS, and hospital visits. Modest shorts and tank tops are fine for most other times. For beach day, swim trunks for boys, one-pieces or tankinis for girls.
  - MannaDR staff will remind your team before each day what to wear and bring, and will ask team members to change if necessary.
  
- **Breakfast & Snack Food.** Each team member needs to bring their own breakfast and snack food. Lunch and dinner are provided, and there is sometimes coffee and fresh fruit at breakfast. The MannaDR camp is in the boonies, people. There's no Piggly Wiggly around the corner. If you think you might get hungry, bring food. All food will be stored in the kitchen - bring Zip-Lock bags to keep it fresh and critter-free.
  
- **Extra Credit.** If you fail the pop quiz at the airport, it is possible to redeem yourself by presenting some of the following... Supplies for the Children's Home Library Learning Center or Rio San Juan Outreach Center: school and craft supplies, Spanish books, and/or good, clean DVD's with Spanish Language AUDIO (subtitles won't work nor will VHS tapes). Check with MannaDR staff for current needs.
  
- **Extra Extra Credit.** Aside from Brian's legendary love affair with Raisin Bran and beef jerky, you might email and ask about bribes/treats/hard-to-find-items for interns and other MannaDR staff.

# Prepare to travel.

- o **Schedule** . To begin securing a date for your team, email Tom Martin [tom@mannadr.org](mailto:tom@mannadr.org), MannaDR's program coordinator. MannaDR staff will do their best to accommodate the scheduling concerns of all groups, but please remember that whole *flexibility* thing... To secure the date, Tom must receive a **non-refundable deposit** of \$1000. Checks should be made payable to Manna Dominican Republic, and sent to:

Manna Dominican Republic  
c/o Tom Martin  
PO Box 1875  
Searcy, AR 72145

- o **Passports**. Gotta have one to travel to the Dominican Republic and re-enter the US. If there is someone in your team who does not have a passport, they need to begin the process NOW. Not tomorrow. Today. Go to: [travel.state.gov/passport](http://travel.state.gov/passport) to learn how to obtain a passport.
- o **Medical**. As team leader, it is your responsibility to comply with MannaDR's recommendations.
  - MannaDR recommends that each team member fill out the Health History and Permission to Treat Minor forms included in this packet. As team leader, make 2 sets of copies of the forms, including copies of passports and insurance cards. Leave one set with a contact in America, and bring one set with you.
  - It is good to purchase medical travel insurance. Multinational Underwriters [mnu.com](http://mnu.com) has several reasonable, inexpensive plans.
  - For shots and vaccinations, MannaDR recommends that team members be current on tetanus, school vaccines, Hepatitis series and CDC recommendations [cdc.gov/travel](http://cdc.gov/travel).

**Flights**. Your team is responsible for making your own flight arrangements. You must communicate the itinerary to the MannaDR staff before booking. This ensures that all parties are on the same page, and provides space to iron out potential scheduling conflicts..

# Prepare to travel. (cont'd)

- o **Money.** Raising money to make this mission trip possible bonds and unifies your team. Get creative. Have a babysitting night, garage sale, pink flamingos – whatever your team comes up with, donations always accepted. Tired of the same stuff - see [ABC's of fundraising](#) for hundreds of zany ideas. Set a fundraising timeline with workable goals (deposit, 50%, 100% due by date). MannaDR recommends you have all funds in hand no later than 1 month before your departure date. The total cost per team member averages \$1250-\$1500, depending on airfare. Keep the following items in mind as you prepare a budget for your team.
  - \$250 per team member is due (*in cash*) to MannaDR staff upon arrival at the camp. This covers room and board, transportation, and work projects. The \$1000 deposit sent to Tom Martin to secure the date is subtracted from the total you need to bring in cash.
  - Supplies for VBS, teaching materials or care packs
  - Travel and/or medical travel insurance
  - Passport and/or vaccination fees.
  - En route meals and/or hotel.
  - Round trip airfare to Puerto Plata (POP).
  - Tourist visa for Dominican Republic, purchased at airport (usually \$10/person).
  - Spending money for souvenirs

## *In Closing*

We're thrilled to partner with you as we join what God is doing in this little corner of the world. We'll be in close touch, and make it our normal practice to "cc" all MannaDR staff on pertinent emails. (This usually means Tammie and Tom.) Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you prepare your team.

### **Brian & Tammie Wallace**

*MannaDR Directors*  
[tammie@mannadr.org](mailto:tammie@mannadr.org)

### **Tom Martin**

*MannaDR Program Coordinator*  
PO Box 1875  
Searcy, AR 72143  
501.268.1951 (evenings)  
501.278.1431 (cell,voice mail)  
[tom@mannadr.org](mailto:tom@mannadr.org) (Tom will answer emails within 48 hours.)

# MannaDR 101

## *When, Where and Wheels.*

Brian and Tammie Wallace moved to the Dominican Republic in 1996 to start a youth mission program like the one they set up for Manna International in Haiti.

The MannaDR camp is located in the small mountain village of Bobita, 2 hours east of Puerto Plata on the north coast. Teams have the tropical opportunity to sleep under mosquito nets in a dorm-style building with 12 beds\* in the girls' room and 12 beds\* in the guys' room with shower, bath and toilet facilities. During the summer, teams are limited to a total of 20 team members.

Teams ride in style in the Diahatsu, affectionately know as "Big Blue." Think outdoor safari vehicle, and be on the lookout for elephants and giraffes ... Kidding.

## *Who's Who: The MannaDR Staff.*

**Brian and Tammie Wallace** *MannaDR Directors*

He was the rough-hewn, South African bad-boy at Bible college. She was the Dean's daughter. Two kids, one cute grandbaby, five countries, and four languages later, you're most likely to find them lounging on the beach. (*Yeah right!*) They are happily/nervously content to lead this rag-tag bunch.

**Tom Martin** *MannaDR Program Coordinator*

Known around these parts as Tom Mar-TEEN, he and his wife DeeAnn live in the States, and travel often to Haiti and the DR. Tom takes care of the logistics for getting teams from the States to the Dominican and back again! Oh yeah - he does this as a volunteer in his off time from his real job as one of the ministers for the Downtown church in Searcy. Tuesday is usually his MannaDR night.

### **Summer Interns**

If your team is here during the summer, you'll have the distinct pleasure of hangin' with (and taking your cues from) the interns. The names and faces change every year, but the fun doesn't stop!

**Tim and Lisa Bynum** *MannaDR Adult Outreach*

He's the gringo who speaks perfect Spanish and programs the heck out of any computer. She's bright, bubbly, blonde; wife, cook and mother extraordinaire. Lindsey and Ethan are their kiddos, and they gave the green light for this crazy roller coaster ride their family's now on.

**Cory and Laura Beth Lamb** *MannaDR Children's Homes*

He builds coffee tables out of doghouses, and she plans stellar Freed-Hardeman University events without batting an eye. Brian and Tammie suckered them into moving down here over a sunset dinner on Playa Grande - how are you supposed to say no to that?! They change kids lives; all day, every day.

## *Who's Who: The MannaDR Staff. (cont'd)*

**Norm Curington** *MannaDR Resource Coordinator*

Whether building a business or a ministry, Norm sees potential everywhere. (And we do mean *everywhere*.) We affectionately call him our "dream catcher." He's left everything behind to live in Rio San Juan, building buildings and relationships, trying to lead the simple life of living God's love and learning God's lessons daily.

**Kyle and Vicki Graham** *MannaDR Rio San Juan*

He was a rockstar. She was a superhero/church secretary. He's super messy, she's pleasantly neat. They fell in love as MannaDR interns and later landed here with their dog, Gus, to work with streetkids in Rio San Juan. Rock on.

**Rich & Audrey Amy** *MannaDR Well Drilling*

Always on the go, he's the "fix-it" man. From construction to mechanics, he's got you covered. Whether stitching fabric or flesh, she's the mender. That's the combo needed for drilling wells and touching lives in the surrounding communities.

# Dominican Republic 101

So you're coming to the Dominican Republic, huh? Wanna know some cool stuff about the place?

- When Columbus sailed the ocean blue, guess where he landed? That's right - the Dominican!
- It's on Hispaniola, the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Caribbean island, between Cuba and Puerto Rico.
- The Dominican Republic shares the island with Haiti.  
Bonus points to anyone who can name the only other two Caribbean nations to share an island.
- Dominicans speak Spanish and are mostly (in name only) Catholic.
- Captain Jack Sparrow was never here, but there's a long history of pirates and treasure hunters.
- Several times in its history, the Dominican Republic has been a U.S. territory.
- The first roads, university, and cathedral in the New World were built in the Dominican Republic.
- Population is approximately 8.5 million, with 2.5 million in the capital city, Santo Domingo. Estimates put the number of Dominican immigrants in New York at *over 1 million*.
- Dominicans eat so much rice and red beans, they joke that they should be on the country's flag.
- For fun? Dominoes, cock fighting, baseball, merengue music and going to the river are big.
- Tourism accounts for more than \$1.3 billion in annual earnings. Money *sent* to Dominicans from Dominicans living abroad is *also* estimated to be about \$1.3 billion per year.

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*Take this section with you, especially to the hospital and dump.*

## Spanish 101

please : por favor

thank you : gracias

good : bien

bad : mal

help : ayuda

bathroom : el baño

where? : ¿donde?

how much? : ¿cuanto?

how are you ? : ¿como estás?

my name is : me llamo

what's your name? : ¿como te llamas?

how old are you? : ¿cuantos años tienes?

i'm from the United States : soy de los estados  
unidos.

God bless : Dios te bendiga

what hurts? : ¿que le duele?

Prayer: Padre Nuestro, bendice esta gente. Gracias por amarnos. En el nombre de su hijo,  
Amen.

# Packing 101

## *Bring it:*

- twin sheets, pillow, light blanket
- towel, washcloth, beach towel
- flashlight
- clothes for a week
- tennis shoes
- toiletries, including any personal medications
- breakfast and snack food
- Bible, pen, journal
- flashlight
- backpack
- water bottle
- camera

## *Comes in handy.*

- extra memory card for camera
- extra batteries for camera, flashlight
- sunglasses, hat
- zip-lock bags
- treats to share with children (candy, balloons, toys - always check with MannaDR staff first)
- rainwear
- bugspray
- shower shoes
- hiking boots
- wet wipes or hand sanitizer

## *Don't even think about it.*

- hair dryer, curling iron or anything electronic
- iPods, video games - okay during travel, but not while you're in the Dominican, please.