

Youth Mission Trip to Dominican Republic – August 2012



I had the privilege of taking nine of our young people from St George's on a short term mission this summer to The Dominican Republic. Working with Mission Direct we helped to build houses for refugees from Haiti - our team sponsored and help build 5 homes and so by the end of our trip over 25 people moved from living in cramped squalor to having space and dignity in a new home.

The work on the building site was tough in extreme heat but it was great to make even a small difference as we shovelled dirt, painted windows and carried bricks around. There was a wonderful team spirit on the building site as we worked with one another and with the local people.



In the afternoons we visited local projects including schools, orphanages and clinics. We did a couple of Juice Ministries where local village children came to hear songs in English and Spanish, along with a drama and then we gave them simple gifts, bread and a special juice drink that contains much needed vitamins for good health. This ministry was similar to a mini Holiday Bible Club and the benefits of making a difference to a child's day were heart-warming.

We fed the severely disabled children in a local orphanage and helped put them to bed for their afternoon nap and were touched by the amount of love shown to these children who have been abandoned and orphaned. There is little funding for the orphanages and the people who work there are extremely hardworking and dedicated

We met so many inspiring people who have given their lives to helping and serving others, we came face to face with the sick and the dying – AIDs and TB is very common in this area. We saw poverty that you can only imagine exists, we worked together as a team and shared food and clothing and medical supplies with those who literally have nothing.



This trip was a life changing experience – hopefully for those who received a new home or benefited from an act of kindness , but also for us as we were blessed and inspired and as we learnt to trust God in new ways.



We received so much support - through fundraising events, through giving gifts of aid and money, through grants from the URC, through practical help and prayer support and we are thankful to everyone for their support. It was also extremely encouraging to see over 100 people come to our church and hear about our trip when we got back, we enjoyed sharing our thoughts, stories and photos with you all.

I would thoroughly recommend short term mission for all young people, it was a real eye opener and an experience that we will never forget. A two week mission trip will never change the whole world but I would say that for us it touched our hearts and changed us in a way that hearing about poverty never could and I am sure the young people will be different people because of this trip. I would like to thank the URC for the grants that they made which really helped to make this trip possible.

Angela Such