



DDG Website and Social Media Update

By Julia and Julius Ariail
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DDG Website: <http://www.dominicandevdevelopmentgroup.org>

The development of the DDG's website, social media, and newsletter has two goals:

- 1) to publicize the work of the DDG; and
- 2) to help those not familiar with the DDG to learn about its accomplishments, future plans, and organization.

Significant resources recently added:

- In the "Mission Teams" section, a list of incoming mission teams (sponsor, name and contact information for leader, destination place and dates, type of work) and links to documents and videos about the work of mission teams;
- In the "News" section, several detailed articles on unique mission projects (Puppy Adoption, Happy Feet shoes, Frog Pillows) that also mention the work of the DDG as a coordinating agency;
- In the "Publications" section, Bishop Isaac's history of the Episcopal Church in the Dominican Republic in both Spanish and English;
- In the "Photos" section, over 15 albums of photographs from DDG and DR diocesan events as well as images that illustrate news articles. These albums are both a current awareness resource and also a handy source for downloadable "stock images" to be used in other online postings and publications.

DDG Newsletter (Compañeros Dominicanos)

The most recent 12-page issue (#32) was published in December 2013 and distributed by email and links on the DDG website ("Publications" section) and social media. Issue #33 is scheduled for April 2014. English articles are being translated by two Dominicans and by Bishop Skilton.

DDG Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dominicandevdevelopmentgroup>

DDG Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DominicanDG>

The content is focused on four main areas:

- 1) the work of mission teams from all of the Companion Dioceses;
- 2) progress on major construction projects;
- 3) significant events in the Diocese of the Dominican Republic;
- 4) significant events in the DDG.

Content comes both from DDG and DR diocesan sources as well as the photographs and mission trip reports from mission teams and their sponsoring churches and dioceses. Recently, significant content has come from individual Dominican churches using Facebook to post their own photographs and project updates. Those photographs and updates are then copied onto the DDG Facebook and Twitter and re-published for a second audience.

"Likes" on the DDG Facebook page have increased from 98 (February 2013) to 363 (February 2014).

The DDG Twitter feed is followed by 10 people.



How Can You Help?

If you use Facebook ~

- ★ “Like” the DDG Facebook page and “Like” whatever posts seem relevant to you.
- ★ “Share” some of the DDG posts on your personal Facebook timeline.
- ★ “Share” some of the DDG posts on your church, deanery or diocesan Facebook page.

If you use Twitter ~

- ★ “Follow” the DDG Twitter feed and “Retweet” relevant tweets.

For the Website ~

- ★ **Send in suggestions** about articles for the DDG website and newsletter to the editors (contact information below).
- ★ **Give the links for the DDG website and social media to the leaders of the mission teams** from your area and encourage them to pass the links along to their team members and to sign up for the DDG email list (online form is on the right-hand column of each page in the DDG website). If the leaders would like the DDG social media to post stories and photographs from their mission projects either while they are in-country or immediately thereafter, ask them to get in contact with the editors before their trip (contact information below). The editors will then follow those teams online and collect photographs and progress reports that will be re-posted on the DDG social media platforms.
- ★ **If you work with a deanery or diocesan website, encourage the webmaster to set up a page dedicated to the work of the DR mission teams from that area.** Encourage the use of links to the DDG website and social media. The DDG website has a page (in the “Links” section) that contains links to diocesan and deanery DR project pages to help publicize those projects and to give others examples of what has been done and what is in the planning stages. Examples include the following:

Michigan: (Tri-Diocesan): <http://michigan-dominican.org>

Nebraska: <http://nebraskaepiscopalian.org/?p=1341>

East Carolina: <http://www.ecdio.org/Ministry%20&%20Education%20Opportunities/companion-diocese.html>

SW Florida: <http://www.episcopalswfl.org/Mission%20and%20Ministry/companion-diocese---dominical-republic.html>

Georgia: http://georgia.anglican.org/?page_id=19

Western Louisiana: <http://www.diocesewla.org/who-we-are/diocesan-ministries/international-mission/>

Contact information for DDG editors:

Julia and Julius Ariail
5802 Long Pond Road
Lake Park GA 31636-2712
(229) 563-0209

jariail@bellsouth.net
juliacariail@bellsouth.net
websexton@dominicandevlopmentgroup.org