



# THE DOMINICAN DEVELOPMENT GROUP

COMPANIONS IN MISSION

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## Executive Director Report

October 2014

One of my favorite passages is the one from proverbs 19:21 which states *There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.* (King James Bible) or *Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails* (New international bible). I use a hybrid of the two which is. "There are many plans in a man's heart but it is our lord's purpose which will prevail when we listen for his council."

There are many ways which this applies to my work with the DDG this year. When I became ED last year my plans were grand. I would apply my skills and work ethic and the results would be grand and immediately apparent. My plans included increasing the awareness and support of our IED programs in all of our companion dioceses. This was also one of my directives from our transition committee coming out of our meeting in Charleston in 2012. I quickly realized there is a real thirst for DR mission not only in our Companion Dioceses but with churches and organizations outside of those Companion Dioceses. Some of these groups just need a little support and guidance to launch their programs and some require much more time. All of these groups are looking for projects which fit their abilities, a few others have specific requirements and need to have their mission programs meet their criteria.

Measurable success can be difficult sometimes, it is easy to see a new church built or total number of mission teams increase. It is not as easy to see the scholarship I receive where 8-10 different people who team together to raise the 350 required to fund a child in our schools. The key to being successful in what we are doing is to increase our support base and we are doing that. Through October 1 we have received over 1200 donations through the DDG from over 400 individuals and organizations. The donations from many of the churches are combined donations from hundreds on individuals. This correlates to thousands of unique donations for the programs of the IED. These results indicate success as an organization and all involved in it, including the IED and our Board.

**Organizational and Program Development:** One of the first tasks undertaken as ED was to “Re brand” our organization, the logo lacked a clear identity, and web presence was poor. Under the guidance and expert service of Julius Ariail the DDG has a new website, Facebook page and twitter site. These resources are bringing the programs closer to those who can support them. With these resources I am receiving 2-10 phone calls and emails each month from folks interested in becoming involved in the excellent work being done in the DR.

**Travel:**

In 2014 my travel has included more than 88 days out of the office.

These trips included:

**Five** trips (64 days total) to the DR in February, April, June, July, and November for convention, mission teams, program development and exploration teams.

**Six** Domestic trips to (24 days total):

Georgia, South Carolina, SW Florida, Michigan, Seattle and North Carolina.

It is my plan for 2015 to limit the length of any of my trips to maximum of 14 Days and to reduce the number of travel days to under 60 total. I must do this for my family and for myself.

**Mission Teams:** I was able to work with mission teams from Tampa, Clearwater, (2) Michigan (St. John’s Midland and Dream project). During my time with these teams I traveled to many sites in the DR doing program/ Project development and site evaluations.

**Exploration teams:**

April and November-

These trips have been very popular and serve our mission. The spring trip yielded new mission relationships with NW Pennsylvania and Virginia. The teams for 2014 traveled North/South, for 2015 we will travel east/west. The dates for the 2015 spring team is April 23-29.

**Grants:**

- 1) SMAA in Sanibel Island has given us a 1500.00 grant for DDG operations and 500.00 for the Santo Tomas program for 2014, the 2015 request was for 2000 for DDG support and 500 for Santo Tomas.
- 2) UTO grant- The 2013 UTO grant for the vocational school, which is still under construction. Cost overruns have caused this project to stall, I have been promoting this work as a possible mission team project. The 2014 UTO grant provided for 2 projects the Playground in Jimani, and a new church at Santa Ana. <sup>Mr. Mendez</sup> These projects are underway.
- 3) New Church Start Grant- The 2013-14 New church start grant was give for 100k and will purchase a piece of property in Hato Mayor. The IED will then need to provide the resources for the modifying the current home on the property into a church building. I have been promoting this work as a possible mission team project for 2015.
- 4) 2015 UTO Grant- Once a project is selected Bob Stevens has agreed to co-write this grant, his expertise and experience is appreciated has helped me with learning effective grant writing techniques.



5) I will continue to look for grants for programs and DDG support.

**Vocational schools-** I have been promoting the new vocational school program development. I hope to meet with the leaders of this program while in the DR in November to learn more about the program goals to see how I can better promote this to groups.

**GEMN-**I have been the SW Florida representative on to GEMN for several years along with Bob Stevens. I have been approached by the Board to inquire if I would serve a term on their Board. My trips to the annual conferences have been partially funded by the Diocese of SW Florida with the remainder being paid by myself and Bob personally. I met with Bishop Dabney 2 weeks ago and he will continue to support my participation in GEMN. GEMN is a great organization and there are real benefits to being on their board. The cost of this participation is a challenge, I would ask the board if the expenses for my participation in these meeting, in excess of those covered by SW Florida, be reimbursable by the DDG

**Financially.** Included in the handouts is the 2014 budget with the YTD totals. So far in 2014 the DDG received and transferred some \$776,800 in support of the development and self-sustainability of the Dominican Episcopal Church.

Additionally, We have received some 70,265.38 for DDG support including 10,000 received by the National church for my pension/retirement account. Currently we have \$183,589.24 in the Fifth third accounts and the DR investment account of which 91,860.34 is restricted for designated programs, leaving us with approximately 91,728.38 for DDG operating. The current projection for 2104 appears to fall short of our budget by approximately 23,000 with adjustment for our actual budget figures we are on track to have an adjusted shortfall of more than 20,000. We continue to be very efficient as an organization, there have been no major unexpected expenses thus far in 2014.

**Looking to the future.** I hope to continue our efforts expand the number of groups coming to the DR and strengthen the relationships between our brothers and sisters in Dominican and the missionaries who assist in the many programs of the Iglesia Episcopal Dominicana. Non Companion Dioceses in several states have mission and support programs in the Dominican Republic including Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Maine, Delaware and New York. I hope to dialog with these groups to evaluate interest in the DDG, and possible representation on the Board.

I continue to be very thankful to the board for allowing me to participate in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Kunkle