



By Julia and Julius Ariail
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Activity as of October 20, 2017

Complete Set of 2017 Mission Team Photographs

- Expanded the DDG's online photograph archives by adding a new album with group photographs of all of the mission teams in-country in 2017. These photographs were posted individually on the DDG Facebook page, usually while the team was in-country, and were also featured in the quarterly issues of *Compañeros Dominicanos* and the monthly *Companion News*.



Companion News and Compañeros Dominicanos

- Both publications are distributed by email and posted on DDG Facebook and Twitter, and are archived on the DDG website. They are also posted on Iglepidom social media.

- So far in 2017 published ten issues (two in March) of *DDG Companion News*, the DDG's monthly newsletter in English. Additional issues are planned for October, November, and December 2017.
- Published three issues (January, May, September) of *Compañeros Dominicanos*, the DDG's bilingual magazine. The final 2017 issue is planned for December 2017.



Websites: <http://dominicandevlopmentgroup.org>
<https://iglepidom.org>
<https://givingsites.com/thedove/>

- Redesigned the Dominican Development Group website to include information on the La Paloma campaign. Assisted with the development of the La Paloma campaign website and campaign video.
- Continued to maintain and enhance the websites of the DDG and the Diocese of the Dominican Republic (in coordination with the Iglepidom Communication Committee).

Dominican Development Group Program List

- Revised the list of the programs and services of the DDG to help answer the question, "What does the DDG do?" Posted the document on the DDG website and social media pages.

Activities of Committee Members

- **Katie Forsyth** - Updated the website for the D.R.E.A.M. (Dominican Republic and Episcopal churches in all of lower Michigan) program.
- **John Gruetzmacher** - Wrote *The Brief History of the Episcopal Church in the Dominican Republic*.
- **Bishop Bill Skilton** - Supervised the Spanish translation of *Compañeros* articles.
- **Sally Thompson** - Wrote two articles about the activities of the mission teams from the Diocese of Southwest Florida which were published in *Compañeros Dominicanos*.
- Everyone participated in reviewing a list of topics for future publications and in proofreading drafts of those publications.

The Episcopal Asset Map

- Development of this resource is on hold until the software structure of the online Map is revised by Episcopal Relief & Development. Initial information on all Dominican Episcopal facilities has been entered, and more will be entered when the structure is updated.

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

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/dominicandg>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/dominicandevdevelopmentgroup>

- New content is posted daily focusing on the work of mission teams in the Dominican Republic and significant developments in both the Dominican Republic and the Companion Dioceses.
- During Hurricanes Irma and Maria, monitored Iglepidom social media and Dominican news publications to post frequent updates on the impact of both hurricanes on the Dominican Republic. Following each storm, posted a summary of damages to Dominican Episcopal facilities.
- Established but did not develop the DDG Instagram presence. This remains a challenge for 2018.

Constant Contact Email Service

- Continued the use of Constant Contact to manage our email database and to send out messages about new issues of the DDG publications and other news.
- The database currently has 945 individuals who are receiving DDG email messages, Those messages have an average open rate of 32%, higher than the overall non-profit organization average of 25%.

Challenges for the Future

- Moving the DDG website and organizational email services to a new host company.
- Developing the DDG Instagram presence.
- Continuing the collection of group photographs of all mission teams in 2018 during leadership transition in the Mission Team Support Office.

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