

MARCH 2024

# CCM NEWS



Children from Padre Granero, Puerto Plata

## SHORT TERM MISSION TRIPS... ARE THEY WORTH IT?

The quick answer is “Yes.” However, the most successful and effective mission trips are those that have excellent pre-trip training, in-country mentoring with cultural education and post-trip follow-up. Without these three elements, trip members may do more harm than good. That’s why Connect Caribbean Mission continues to learn about missiology trends and research. And even more, we learn from our faithful Dominican Team & Hope Center Pastors who are the 24-7 ministers and experts. As we implement best practices and train each Team, our motto is to go as both servants and students on a “mission-cation” experience.

Maybe a better question is: “What makes CCM mission trips effective?” Answer: Our long-term investment (25 years) in specific Dominican churches and relationships. When our US partners send mission teams, they are joining in what the Dominican Church is already doing. We are serving WITH our Dominican family and assisting them in reaching their communities. While doing so, our mission team participants develop a greater appreciation for other cultures and encounter the world in ways they never have before. Coming home, they can continue to support the Dominican Church specifically through child sponsorship and becoming a voice for missions in their home churches.

**CCM hosts mission teams from our U.S. Partner Churches. Please consider joining your church’s team.**

**Or join one of Connect Church’s Trips in 2024!**



“We are not bringing Christ to poor communities. He has been active in these communities since the creation of the world, sustaining them, Hebrews 1:3 says, by His powerful Word. Hence, a significant part of working in poor communities involves discovering and appreciating what God has been doing there for a LONG time.”  
— Steve Corbett, When Helping Hurts:



## SUMMER 2023 YOUTH TRIPS

According to several media sources, today's adolescents face a lot of social pressures, but they are also accomplishing great things. They want to be part of social change and causes both near and far. Last summer, CCM hosted two youth groups in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. Freedom Church from Bel Air, MD and Connect Church, Ashland, MA went with servant's hearts and open minds. And came back full of stories of God's goodness.



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MATTER WHAT  
LANGUAGE IS  
SPOKEN.

-STUDENT TEAM  
MEMBER

### STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- I learned more about Jesus' power and His calling in my life
- This trip was one of the best decisions I've ever made.
- It helped me grow in my faith rapidly.
- Highlights are definitely the prayer walk, connecting with the kids and making crafts with them.
- The CCM staff was so caring, knowledgeable and informative with cultural diversity. Interacting with the Dominican people, especially the children was again, a very humbling experience!!
- It strengthened my connection with God
- I saw God in fresh in new ways through the people in the DR and the students
- Connecting with Angel, one of the boys at the Hope Center. He sat with me the whole time and told me he would never forget me!
- It showed me that God can move BIG in young people
- Incredibly impactful. I was taught to slow down and learn how to hear God



THANK YOU, STUDENTS!

**CCM will host several youth and young adult church teams this year!**



# HOPE CENTER'S EXPAND

Since our last newsletter, two of our Hope Centers have expanded their ministries. We're happy to report that Sermon on the Mount Church's Hope Center's second floor is officially open.. The kids and staff are thoroughly enjoying their new space! We're praying for tables and chairs to finish it off.



"AT CCM, WE SEE EVERY CHILD AS A BEACON OF HOPE. THEIR DREAMS ARE OUR PURPOSE, THEIR SUCCESS OUR JOY. BY PARTNERING THE U.S. AND DOMINICAN CHURCH, WE'RE LIGHTING UP FUTURES AND CHANGING THE WORLD."

-DERYCK FRYE

Pastor Jose and the team at Soldier of Jesus Hope Center were thrilled with new tables and chairs so the children can eat healthy meals, play games and do crafts. Our generous sponsors made this possible.



**THANKS TO JOURNEY & VERTICAL CHURCHES FOR MAKING THESE EXPANSIONS POSSIBLE!**





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If you'd like to give to CCM, contributions can be made to:  
<https://weconnect.churchcenter.com/giving/to/connect-caribbean-mission>

CCM partners with the international child sponsorship organization,



If you have questions related to your account,  
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