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Santiago, Dominican Republic Campaign  
“Tips for the Trip”  
July 15—July 23, 2010

This handout contains just about everything we can think of to tell you about your upcoming adventure, so...stay tuned !!!!!!!!!!!!! If you think of something we left out—let us know...

Hola y Bienvenido, Amigos  
to the Santiago, DR Mission Campaign

The next few days will change your life and someone else's--guaranteed--or your money back!!

**TRAVEL--** On July 15, 2010 we will be departing from Memphis or Texas (Sugar Grove group). We will arrive sometime around 7:45 PM. A bus will be waiting for you at the airport. Getting through customs can be a hassle in a foreign country, so stay with the group and keep an eye on your bags!

The weight limits for luggage are as follows: **NOTE-- ALL BAGS WILL BE WEIGHED BEFORE DEPARTURE AS YOU CHECK YOUR BAGGAGE** Our U.S. airlines are very strict for safety reasons and will not allow overweight luggage to be checked. ***Allow yourself a small weight margin.*** Using your bathroom scales--hold your bag and weigh, drop your bag and weigh again. This will get you pretty close on your bag weight.

Each passenger is now allowed:

- one 40 pound carry-on bag 45 inches L + W + H
- one 50 pound check bag 62 inches L + W + H (used to pack your personal items)

You will be surprised how much of what you will need can be crammed into a 40 pound carry on bag. What you can't get into your carry-on will be packed into your 50 pound check bag. YES OUR WEIGHT LIMIT IS 50 #. Click here for more information-- [Baggage Allowance](#) (press your control key and click with your mouse).

Pack your carry -on bag carefully. It should have enough clothes and bath articles and any prescription medicine to get you by for a few of days --just in case some of our luggage gets lost in the shuffle. We have had wonderful luck on all our trips, but things can happen.

You are allowed a purse, camera bag or laptop computer in addition to your carry on. Most of the hotel rooms have good wireless reception.

As we check in everyone will end up with one carry on and two check bags. Guard this second check bag as if it is really yours. It is one of our bags that you packed at the packing party. This extra bag will be numbered. These numbers will help us make sure none are missing, being a sequential number from 1 to .... They will contain our supplies and articles of benevolence that our group is carrying.

**THE ARRIVAL:**

After you get off the plane you will clear their immigrations and head to the baggage claim area. Everyone should claim all of their bags and line up at the customs area. Remember that your supply bag is gifts for your brothers and sisters at church. We don't want customs to think that what we have is for sale later. Customs is interested in people trying to bring items for re-sale. Bringing gifts to a friend is perfectly acceptable. After you get through customs we will head to the hotel and check in. Try to get as much rest as possible. Each day will be demanding of everyone.

**SECURITY:**

***ALWAYS--Stay with the group or let someone know if you have to stray a little.*** Remember you are in someone else's country. You are as safe in Santiagos as you would be in any city in the U.S... Play things safe by always traveling in numbers, 4's or 5's. Don't take your money out for everyone to see. Take out only what you

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intend to spend. Guard your wallet and cell phone. Keep them in a front pocket or a zipped pouch. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. I can't remember who said that, but it works.

Let John or Andrea know if you have problems. We can't fix it if we don't know it is broke.

### **CURFEW:**

*In past years some of our young people have stayed out late each night. Everyone will be expected to be back inside the hotel by 10:00 PM. each night. There will be no exceptions to this rule. It is for your safety and the success of our mission. Remember we are working for the Lord.*

### **DRESS and WEATHER:**

Our dress will be casual for all of our work. Most of us will be in jeans and a T-shirt of some kind. Scrubs are excellent, too. The weather will be cool at night (65-70) and in the 80's or low 90's during the day.

**Do not plan to wear shorts.** Customs in other countries are different from ours and we don't want to cause any concern or send the wrong message. Cargo pants are ok as long as they come well below the knees. Tennis shoes or ankle top hiking boots are excellent footwear. Take a hat of some sort to protect your head from sunburn.

**WOMEN--DO NOT WEAR ANY TYPE OF JEWELRY,** even costume jewelry. It is just as it is here in the US. Someone may try and take it from you, especially, if it looks expensive.

Ladies, you will not need a lot of make-up. Most ladies there cannot afford the extra things that our ladies use here to look their best. We want to be accepted as much as possible and the way you look is their first impression of what to expect of us. Remember the less you pack the more supplies we can pack and carry to help those in need.

### **MEALS--FOOD & DRINK:**

Each person will be responsible for paying for your evening meal. The price of the trip does not include the evening meal. Breakfast is included at the hotel. Snacks will be available for lunch.

Protect your tummy once we leave the USA. “So what if I feel a little queasy for a couple of days, I'm the one who will suffer the consequences”, some of you may be thinking. Before you consider doing battle with “Montezuma's Revenge” just remember that if you get sick, the team loses two members until you are well. We lose you and someone to stay with you and be your nurse to make sure you don't become dehydrated and die because living is worse. Their “parasites” can be quite devastating. From the moment we step off the plane ice, fresh fruits and leafy vegetables are off-limits except in the nicest restaurants. Anything washed before you eat it and not cooked, is TABOO (unless the water used to wash it was purified). All foods must be cooked before you eat them. Heat kills the parasites. Hot coffee or bottled drinks are OK. We will have bottled water at the worksites. Always carry some water with you.

As we said earlier--**TRAVEL IN GROUPS OF 4 OR MORE IF YOU GO OUT.** As with any large city, there is safety in numbers. The food at our hotel is good (top floor). Sometimes service is a little slower than in the US. Remember we are in another country and people are different. Be patient!!! Coffee will be strong, sugar sometimes coarse and brown and soft drinks sometimes warm. If you rent a taxi and go out to a nice restaurant, the management will tell you that their water and ice are OK. It is best not to take a chance. The management will let you substitute a soup for your salad. Remember, it must have been cooked to kill the bacteria. We have always found the soups to be excellent. Do not eat anything in front of everyone. We will have an area designated for us to take breaks, which will be off limits to everyone except our people. Do not invite anyone into our break area!!

### **ACTIVITIES:**

Each morning the restaurant will begin serving a buffet breakfast at 6:30 A.M. The restaurant is located on the top floor of the hotel. They even have eggs to order. The view is great and the food is excellent.

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We will board the bus and depart the hotel at 7:25 AM. DON'T FORGET YOUR ALARM CLOCK—RISE AND SHINE. We plan to conduct a VBS for the young people and have both men and women's classes for the adults. It will take us a while to get things organized but it will come. In no time we will be working like pros.

Basic schedule:

Each day in the morning, beginning at 9:00 AM we will have:

Classes for the children

Classes for the ladies

Classes for the men

We will have lunch for everyone from 11:00 AM until 12:00 PM

Continue with classes from 12:00 PM until 2:00PM

Classes for the children

Classes for the ladies

Classes for the men

From 2:00 until 4:00PM we will prepare for the evening meeting

From 4:00 until 5:00 PM we will sing.

From 5:00 until 5:30 we will have snacks

From 5:30 until 6:30 we will have a gospel meeting (brother David will speak)

**CHURCH SERVICES:**

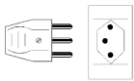
Church services will be in Spanish and English. It is an enjoyable and rewarding experience to sing and pray in a foreign country. The dress is casual for both men and women. I will probably wear a dress shirt and dress slacks, but nice and casual is ok.

**CURRENCY:**

The current exchange rate is approximately 36 Peso's for 1 US dollar. However, this rate changes daily. Many vendors will bargain for the price if you care to do it. A small calculator will help in determine an American currency value. Dividing the DR price by 3 will get you close to how many US dollars you are spending.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

We will be staying at the **Hodelpa Centro Plaza (809-581-7000)**. The service is very good and the staff was always eager to help. As with any hotel or motel, never leave valuables or money in the room. Everything is run about the same as with an American hotel. The electricity is 110 volts. You may however need an adapter, shown below, in some places.



This is what the adapter looks like if we even need it.

**Miscellaneous:**

Do not give your home Phone # to anyone. It is (in Latin American Countries) an invitation to call you collect in the USA.

If you use a film camera, take plenty of film. Many items are imported and will be more expensive.

Don't forget your alarm clock.

Take a small flashlight (such as a AA) and extra batteries.

Latinos people are very curious about you and the USA. They love to look at photos.

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You, your family, the church where you attend are some suggestions of photos.

ALWAYS negotiate a taxi fare before you get in. The taxis do not have meters and you do not tip them in addition to your fare.

When paying for anything, the vendor will usually round up or down to the nearest Peso.

You may want to take extra cash for souvenirs. There will be opportunities to exchange throughout the trip. U.S. money--One-dollar bills will work for small purchases. Nicer restaurants will accept all major credit cards. There is a money exchange office around the corner to the left from the hotel. They give an excellent rate.

Your cell phone will work in Santiago. It is however not a local call and is a bit more expensive. People from the US can simply dial your local number and reach you.

CALL—John & Andrea McCadams @ 731-803-0862 John or 731-803-3237 Andrea-- for more information  
email [jmccadams@gmail.com](mailto:jmccadams@gmail.com)