

Dear Family and Friends,



At this moment I am here in the Dominican Republic. I used to live here with my family when I was a young teenager, and I really enjoyed it. At first it was an experience that I didn't want to have, but as time wore on I grew used to it. Three of the many ministries I have had the opportunity to be a part of are: Niño's de La Luz, King's Kids, and Westside Compassion Ministries (This one is not in the DR). Niños de La Luz takes boys from the street and gives them a home, clothing, education, working skills, and a foundation in the Lord. This place I really enjoyed working with, and the boys down there I consider to be some of my best friends.

Most of the boys here would call this place their home, and you can tell they enjoy living here. King's Kids is a ministry that brings in kids ages eight to eighteen, and they teach them biblical foundations through a camp. They teach biblical principles, and also choreographies in the first week. The second week the kids then take what they learned and apply it through evangelism in the streets throughout Santo Domingo. Westside



Compassionate Ministries is an afterschool program that helps kids with their homework, and also instills in the kids a diligence in their work. Beside that the kids are also taught biblical principles. One of the practical ways this is done is through prayer each day, and also learning bible verses each week. Not only does this affect the children, but when they go home to their parents they show them the new things they've learned. I guess I like working with children, because all of the ministries involve kids, and young adults. Before I continue further in ministering to children and youth I plan to do a DTS through Youth With A Mission.

As some of you know, I am staying in the Dominican Republic until August. Originally the plan was to stay one month arriving June 20<sup>th</sup> and leaving July 18<sup>th</sup>. However, while I was down here I came into contact with a music teacher who asked if I would join his class and learn the violin. So I decided I would stay longer. A few days later as I was praying and asking God where he wanted me to go, I began to have a deep desire to do a Discipleship Training School (DTS). So I then asked where he wanted me to go. Only one option came into my mind, Santo Domingo's arts DTS. So I talked with the director and got all the information and began my application. This DTS consists of three months of training in the word and also going deeper into the arts





such as instruments, singing, dances, and dramas. Then the next two months we go into outreach doing our performances in the streets and just showing God's love to the people who live in this world. The cost of this DTS isn't cheap, for the first three months I need \$2,500, and I will need another \$3,500 for the outreach, which won't necessarily be in the Dominican Republic. What I'm asking you as my friends and family is that if God puts it on your hearts to give towards this trip to do so. I also ask that you

will be with me in prayer so that the entire trip will be completely for God and that my heart will focus on Him daily and His calling for my life.

After reading the first half you might be asking how do kids relate to me doing an arts focused DTS? Why focus on music and dancing when I seem to enjoy being involved in the lives of children. I believe this DTS will help me to progress in music in order to do God's will. God is the one leading me into this DTS, so I am going to follow. No matter how many people say I could be doing something better, or different. I will stand firm in God knowing that He knows exactly what He is doing even when I am not. In the future I might end up being a part of these ministries, and the musical abilities God has given me will aid in showing these kids what it means to love the Lord.

Sincerely,

Samuel Oliveria