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Upcoming Mission Trips to Dominican Republic 2009

- April 15-20 *Child Sponsorship Team
Annual Birthday Party*
- June 10-23 *Outreach with Pastor Marino Mendez (Los Guaricanos)
Evangelism, Prison Ministry, Light Construction, Teaching*
- July 3-16 *Church Construction with Pastor Nelson Zambrano
(Hatillo de Azua)*

They Will Soar on Eagles Wings

Ellen Abramson



"Comfort, comfort my people...speak tenderly to Jerusalem...the grass withers and the flowers fall but the word of our God stands forever...you who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout. Lift it up! Do not be afraid...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength...they will soar on wings like eagles..." Isaiah 40 is a powerful

chapter. I'm memorizing it as part of my challenge to a few Junior and Senior high boys that I teach. I memorized this chapter years ago, but it seeped from my memory somewhere along the way. I find myself enchanted with it again and deeply blessed by the process of memorization. Every time I go through the chapter I see new things I didn't see before. God is reminding me through sheer repetition and meditation on the same thoughts that: 1) His heart is that of a gentle shepherd 2) He wants good things for us 3) He is magnificently massive and powerful. (*He carries the dust of the earth in a basket...and weighs the mountains on the scales and the hills on a balance! He measures the heavens with the breadth of His hand.*) and finally, 4) the knowledge of His character and a close relationship with Him makes even the oldest, frailest and most challenged of us walk without getting tired and run without becoming weary! It's a great chapter to bring hope to the world's most current and challenging issues. Such hope is also the daily lifeblood of our nationals as they thrive in the trenches by His grace and power! God bless you!

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Dominican Republic Nationals Need YOU!

Pastor Marino Mendez and Pastor Nelson Zambrano are reaching out to their respective communities in powerful ways and they need your help to accomplish their God-given visions! The June 10-23 mission team members will assist Pastor Mendez in the areas of Evangelism, Prison Ministry, Teaching English and in light Construction. Pastor Mendez opened a bakery and bakery school in Adonai school but closed it because the government would not allow a bakery inside a school building. ASON



assisted him with the purchase of a large building across the street from the school which will house a new bakery as well as community outreach ministries. Renovations have begun and this team will continue the work. Team members may work in the area of evangelism, teaching and/or prison ministry.

Pastor Nelson Zambrano needs your assistance to begin construction of his church in the very poor community of



Hatillo de Azua. Years ago Pastor Zambrano went to church with his wife to make fun of evangelism, but God had other ideas for him. He not only became a believer in 1994 but planted a church in 1998 and gave up his apartment so the congregation could use it for worship. He is a widower with four adult children and finds joy in serving the people in his community.

The denomination purchased land for the church last year; however the congregation needs assistance with construction of the concrete block building. The July 3-16 team will begin ground level construction and will complete all the work that funds, team members and time will allow. The more

members we have on each of these teams, the more we will be able to accomplish on these projects.

Adults and teens who have completed 9th grade are invited to join these teams. ASON mission trips are very carefully planned. Team Members are well trained and prepared for their mission and Team Leaders are well trained and prepared to lead you on a life changing journey to the mission field.

You will be exposed to visionary nationals, their staff members, and their families. You will hear their testimonies of conversion, stories of how their ministries reach out to the people in their communities and they will share their God-given vision for the people of their country. Join us and your life will be changed and you will expand your worldview.

Cost for each trip is \$1,750 plus airfare. The deadline to apply is March 15, 2009. Contact ASON if you would like to participate.

Dream BIG

Seth Friese and his wife Kristi were part of our December Construction Team to the Dominican Republic. A portion of Seth's testimony and reflections on his trip provide great insight and understanding about just how BIG our God is...we dream big...but, He dreams BIGGER. . . "This was a very meaningful trip for me, because in the



Seth and Kristi Friese *summer of 1994 I was in Los Guaricanos painting and helping with the final bit of cement work. On our last day we had a dedication service for the work that would go on in the school, the lives that would be touched by the people of the church, and hearts that would be transformed in the community. Now, 14 ½ years later, I get to witness first hand what we all prayed for all those years ago. The thing about it though, I was unable to dream big enough. God has done more than we imagined. Now, as we invest in this community again, will I be able to dream big enough? God is still at work and moving. The evidence is clear. People are seeking God, the hungry are fed, the sick are being healed, God's kingdom is expanding. How will the work we began this week, the investment of time, money and relationships shape the future of Los Guaricanos? I only hope I can dream big enough."*

New School Administrator



Adonai is one of our Dominican Republic ASON supported schools and we are pleased to introduce their new Administrator Leida Rodriguez to each of you. She stepped into this role when Rafael Mendez retired after 20 years of service as Administrator. Rafael and his uncle, Pastor Marino Mendez began this school in a small wooden church building with 60 students. Many were recruited from a reclaimed garbage dump and few could afford the small tuition, so Rafael and Pastor Mendez personally funded the needs of the school. ASON has partnered to assist them with construction, computer training, event planning, financial and relational support. We began our ASON Child Sponsorship Program at Adonai in 1999 to provide financial support for the school and for students. Adonai school currently has more than 300 students in a large three story structure.

Leida is married with three adult children and comes from a family with 13 children. Each of her brothers and sisters have professional jobs in the Dominican Republic. Her parents stressed the importance of a quality education and made many sacrifices to send their children to private schools.

Adonai's new administrator has ten years of teaching experience in the school. She is passionate about the children receiving a top quality, Christian education and envisions improvements that will benefit the students, teachers and ultimately the community. One of her dreams is the addition of technical training in a variety of areas along with their academic subjects. This type of additional training will broaden their employment options after graduation. She prays for the additional funding and resources needed to carry out her God-given vision. Leida is a blessing to the students, school and her community. We look forward to working with her in her new role.

Lift up
your
Hearts
in
Praise!

- We hope to have the addition on our building (meeting room and 3 additional offices) finished by June or July, and by God's grace the addition is completely paid for!
- We have a growing team of volunteers helping us with office and yard work.

- Pray for sponsors to support the children on our Child Sponsorship Waiting List.
- Praise for Team Leaders
- Pray for a long-term solution to the electrical challenges of our school project in the Dominican Republic. They need a combination of battery storage, generator, wind and solar power.
- Pray for construction funds for schools and churches in the Dominican Republic and Ghana West Africa.
- Pray for missionaries to join ASON's staff to develop our fields.

Prayer

THE
spirit
OF
GIVING

- \$1,000 covers one year of tuition and expenses for a theological student in India. We need funding for 12 students in 2009. The students were blessed 2008 expenses to be covered by a grant.
- \$1,500 for travel expenses to Ghana West Africa to set up a new ministry including an orphanage and HIV-AIDS clinic.
- \$1,000 for a new volunteer computer and software at ASON's office. Volunteers save a lot of our staff funds.
- Funds are needed for a sign at our ASON office building