

GEMN 2019 - Mission Site Visits

Option-#1

This trip will highlight the typical stages of development in the Dominican Episcopal Church we will visit 3 church locations that highlight the ministry development and impact in the communities

Iglesia Episcopal Santo Tomás, Gautier

The Iglesia Episcopal Santo Tomás is a church with an active congregation in the community of in a Gautier is a small, rural village just outside of the Santo Domingo metropolitan area. Come learn about the church's has many active ministries including the Santo Tomás children's educational and nutritional program. This began as a grassroots effort by the church women of Santo Tomás Episcopal Church. On their own and without any outside support in 2009 on Saturdays they began holding a mid-morning Bible study for younger children and providing a hot noon meal for those who attended.

The women cooked the food in their kitchens. This grew such that by March of 2011 they were serving 50 to 60 children every Saturday. This support has been enhanced through ECW donation collection programs collecting much needed school supplies and undergarments. The program grew and with the support of the local church, short term mission teams and a UTO grant a new community center was constructed. The Children's Nutrition Program has increased the number of children it serves feeding some 95-120 children each Saturday. The educational initiative provides a supervised study hall every afternoon for children to work on their homework. In November of 2015 Fr. Sandino was able to install a computer lab in the Santo Tomás building. Both programs use a similar grass roots approach using local resources and volunteers with minimal outside support. Many of these volunteers are teachers from the local public school who recognized the need for additional educational support for these children.



Iglesia Monte Sion, Andres

The Iglesia Episcopal Monte Sion, in the community of Andres, started in 2005 as a mission to the San Jose church in Boca Chica. This church has operated from home until it grew so large, they had to begin meet outside, they would hang a tarp between 2 houses for shade from the sun. With contributions from several mission companions the episcopal church a piece of land was purchased in 2015. A temporary building was constructed on site and the congregation began worshiping at their current location.

The development continued in 2017 and 2018 the church was constructed in partnership by volunteer members of the Monte Sion church, paid local workers and short-term mission teams. The church has plans to build a new school and vicarage for this community.



Iglesia De La Gracia, La Caleta

This Church began as a bible study and has outgrown their storefront location. In 2018 the Diocese of the Dominican Republic purchased a piece of land which will eventually house this growing congregation.



Option-#2

San Esteban Church and School, Clinic Esperanza y Caridad and Bishop Kellogg Center

The San Esteban church was founded on December 19, 1920 although it was originally called the Iglesia San Miguel y Todos los Santos. The School was founded two years later in 1922 and was unique for that time as it accepted all children regardless of color or ethnicity. Come learn about the ministries of this well-developed church and the impact it is making in the community.

The Clinic Esperanza was completed and began serving patients in October 1998, the largest clinic operated by the Dominican Episcopal Church, has always been challenged to fulfill the overwhelming medical needs of the urban community it serves. A typical year in the clinic of "Hope and Charity" averages 22-25,000 patient visits. The Clinic provides quality, low cost medical services in several areas including the largest HIV program in the province, physical therapy, lab services, and provided space for local doctors as well as the Rotary Club.

The Centro Obispo Kellogg is a meeting facility with the capacity of housing 38 persons in its 16 rooms and has a common area, full-service kitchen and 2 large conference rooms. This facility is frequently used by visiting mission teams as well as



Clinic Esperanza- San Esteban Church- Obispo Kellogg Center- Colegio San Esteban(below)

