

Companion Diocese Commission Report 2013-2014

The relationship between the Diocese of Georgia and the Dominican Republic is as strong as ever! We have been engaging in this relationship for almost two decades. As a result of our partnerships, many wonderful things have been shared between our two dioceses, which includes construction, Vacation Bible School, house construction, knitting classes, medical clinics, school scholarships, but most importantly, God's amazing love. Our diocese has sent youth teams, adult teams and a combination of both.

In the Diocese of Georgia, we are blessed with creative minds. Creativity has allowed us to approach mission in different ways. We have learned that partnerships between churches, convocations, and other dioceses are great ways to combine forces to accomplish the work God has given us to do. These partnerships make our teams stronger and allow us to combine our financial resources and to provide manual labor, which have allowed us to accomplish more difficult projects in the communities we are called to serve.

Once again, this year has proved to be a productive year of partnership with our Dominican brothers and sisters. Collectively we have experienced an increase in our efforts to help build relationship, infrastructure, and to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Dominican Republic. The following is a summary of our activities for 2013-14 (as of the last convention) and a glimpse of efforts being planned in 2015.

The Diocese of Georgia is also well represented by Bishop Benhase and by two members on the Dominican Development Group (DDG) Board of Directors. Your representatives are Bishop Benhase, the Rev. David Somerville and Julius Ariail. Julius Ariail, in partnership with his wife, Julia, also serves the DDG Board as a photographer and editor of the DDG's website, newsletter, and social media. The DDG meets twice a year, once in the Dominican Republic and once in a companion diocese.

LIST OF 2013 EVENTS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

1. Mission Trip to El Carreton (Team Leader: The Very Rev. Ted Clarkson, sponsored by the Southeast Convocation, January 14-21)
2. DDG meeting in Santo Domingo, exploration trip in El Pedregal (Julia and Julius Ariail and The Rev. Tar and Jim Drazdowski, February 10-16)
3. Encounter in Mission in Santo Domingo (The Rev. Tar Drazdowski and Julius Ariail, April 12-14)
4. Mission Trip to El Pedregal (Team Leader: The Rev. Tar Drazdowski, sponsored by Christ Church Valdosta, June 15-22)
5. Mission Trip to Santiago De Los Caballeros (Team Leader: The Rev. Joshua Varner, Diocesan Youth Mission Trip, June 24-July 1)

LIST OF 2014 EVENTS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

1. Mission Trip to El Carreton (Team Leader: The Very Rev. Ted Clarkson, sponsored by Southeast Convocation, January 27- February 3)

2. Mission Trip to Las Carreras (Team Leader: The Rev. Lonnie Lacy, sponsored by St. Anne's Tifton, February 1-8)
3. Convention, DDG meeting in Santo Domingo, and Exploration trip to El Pedregal (Julia and Julius Ariail and The Rev. Tar and Jim Drazdowski, February 14-20)
4. Medical Mission Trip to San Pedro de Macorís (Team Leader: Dave Sweeterman, sponsored by St. Peter's Savannah, February 15-22)
5. Mission Trip to Las Carreras (Team Leader: The Rev. Jay Weldon, sponsored by St. Patrick's Albany, March 7-14)
6. Mission Trip to El Pedregal (Teams Leaders Fred Richter, Julia Ariail, Helen Tucker; sponsored by Christ Church Valdosta, June 7-14)

Future Mission Trips 2015

1. Medical Mission Trip to San Pedro de Macorís (Team Leader: Dave Sweeterman, davesweeterman@gmail.com; sponsored by St. Peter's Savannah; January 31- February 8)
2. Mission Trip to Las Carreras (Team Leader: Stacey Beckham, stacey@staceybeckham.com; sponsored by St. Anne's Tifton; March 7-14)
3. Mission Trip to Santiago De Los Caballeros (Mao), (Team Leader: The Rev. Joshua Varner, jvarner75@gmail.com; Diocesan Youth Mission Trip, sponsored by the Youth Programs of the Diocese of Georgia; dates to be determined)
4. Mission Trip to El Pedregal (Team Leader: Fred Richter, fredrichter17@gmail.com; local Valdosta Contacts Julia Ariail, juliacariail@bellsouth.net, or Helen Tucker, hmt_n_vld@hotmail.com; sponsored by Christ Church Valdosta; dates to be determined)
5. Mission Trip to Las Carreras (Team Leader: The Rev. Jay Weldon, jay@stpatricksalbany.org; sponsored by St Patrick's Albany, dates to be determined)
6. Mission Trip to El Carreton (Team Leader: The Very Rev. Ted Clarkson, theolog218@darientel.net; sponsored by Southeast Convocation; dates to be determined)

If you are praying about starting a mission team or praying about being a short-term missionary to the Dominican Republic, the Companion Diocese webpage at <http://georgia.anglican.org/?page id=19> is an excellent source of information and gives detailed information about past trips and contact information.

Un Dios

Una Iglesia

Una misión

Vaya con Dios para hacer el trabajo que ha estado facultado para ello por el Espíritu Santo!

It has been my honor and pleasure to work with the dedicated people of the Diocese of Georgia, who have ventured into the mission field, those who have supported the mission financially, and who have been diligent in their prayers. Bishop Benhase will be appointing a new Chair of the Companion Diocese Commission; my resignation is effective as of October 31, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Tar Drazdowski