

T.E.A.R.S. Ministry Short Term Missions Teams

TEARS Vision:

To glorify God by training leaders and facilitating holistic communities of worship in developing countries of the world.

TEARS Mission:

It is our mission to plant churches and also enable churches to achieve community, interdependency, intimacy and accountability by becoming gospel-centered, disciple-producing bodies that are proactive in their communities and autonomous in function. Our main focus must be building Christ-centered relationships, discipleship / evangelism, and training believers in the discovery and development of their gifts, talents and vision for the enhancement of their communities and the advancing of the Kingdom of God.

T.E.A.R.S. Short-Term Mission Purpose

The purpose for short-term mission teams is two-fold. First, we invite you to come along side our ministry helping empower local leaders in practical ways to accomplish the T.E.A.R.S. vision (establishing healthy, self-sustaining, reproducing churches). Secondly, as you experience missions first hand, our desire is that you will gain a greater hunger to see the great commission fulfilled. Our challenge to you is that you be changed for life!

What do Short term missions teams do?

Within a 10-day/ 9-night missions trip you will have the opportunity to minister to the Dominican/ Haitian people alongside local Christian leaders in various ways. We'll connect you to the T.E.A.R.S. school, the Christian community in Maria Auxiliadora, Haitian outreach team in Soto, the Church planting team in Los Pomos, or a mountain village community. Our goal is to match your gifts and passions to the area your team would be the greatest blessing. Teams can minister through serving, sharing testimonies, dramas, dance, work projects and more. We hope that you and your team members will not only do projects and outreach during your stay, but also have an opportunity to get to know the local believers and what God is doing through them in their community. Also, if you want to enjoy the beautiful scenery of this Caribbean island, we'll spend a day in the sun at one of this country's lovely beaches.

How much does a trip like this cost?

\$780 per person for a team of 10 or more for a 10-day/ 9-night stay.

Your team will either stay at the nearby Christian Conference Center that has numerous dorm rooms holding over 300 people, a few individual rooms, a pool, base ball field, many possible meeting areas, a mix of Dominican and American food, and more. (Electricity is turned off after 11pm). Or a vacation spot called Casa Club (<http://www.cvr.com.do/casaclub/>) that has spacious cabins (rooming up to 10 people), a pool, and good Dominican food. Both have back up electricity and water systems to help prevent power and water outages.

We choose the location depending on availability, your preference, and the number of people on your team.

These prices include all transportation to and from the airport, around town and surrounding areas, and to the beach; all meals and lodging; translators; an administration fee which covers training materials, experienced leadership, team planning and logistical support; and money to do a small work projects of our choosing.

* Please note: all costs are subject to change. Every team member will need a valid U.S. PASSPORT. No VISA is required, however a "tourist card" is required and can be purchased upon your arrival for \$10, (and an \$10 exit fee might be required upon your departure if not included in your airfare).
Airfare, entrance fees/ exit fees, and passports are not included.

Alterations in trip length, # of team members, or change of location.....

- If you desire to stay a different length of time, the package amounts will be adjusted.
- If the team is less than 10 people the cost amount may be raised.
- If your team would like to stay at a different location, there are other possible options to stay at nice hotels, or lower budget places that have regular power and water outages. If you are interested we will let you know what is available and what the price difference would be.

Optional (please give us a two month notice for any of these options)

Resort: If you would like to spend the night at the beach at an all-inclusive hotel it will be approximately \$65 - \$85 per person/ per night (all food is included). Arrangements must be made one month ahead of time.

Team Video: One of our TEARS staff members will film your trip, edit it, and send you home with a professional video of your time here. \$250

Special events or extra work projects: \$1,000 to \$10,000 (Ideas are listed in leaders packet).

TEARS Ministry T-Shirts: \$10 (or consider having you own team shirts made before you come.)

Example of team schedule:

15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Your team arrives	Morning prayer 7:30 Breakfast 8:30 All day Orientation- get to know the local area, TEARS Ministry and more 12 Lunch 2 Tour of City - Phone calls/ change money 6 Dinner 8 evening outreach/ relax? Team meeting	Morning prayer 7:30 Breakfast 8:30 Work Project 12 Lunch 2 Work Project/ Ministry/ Outreach 6 Dinner 8 evening outreach/ relax? Team meeting	Morning prayer 7:30 Breakfast 8:30 Work Project 12 Lunch 2 Work Project/ Ministry/ Outreach 6 Dinner 8 evening outreach/ relax? Team meeting	Morning prayer 7:30 Breakfast 8:30 Work Project 12 Lunch 2 Work Project/ Ministry/ Outreach 6 Dinner 8 evening outreach/ relax? Team meeting	Morning prayer 7:30 Breakfast 8:30 time training local leaders 12 Lunch 2 work project/ ministry outreach 6 Dinner 8 evening outreach/ relax? Team meeting

22 Morning prayer 7:30 Breakfast 9 Visit Church Service 12 Lunch 3 relax / visit locals 6 Dinner Team meeting	23 Morning prayer 7:30 Breakfast 8:30 Work Project 12 Lunch 3 Work Project/ Ministry/ Out- reach 6 Dinner 8 evening outreach/ relax? Team meeting	24 Morning prayer 7:30 Breakfast Go to the Beach!!!! 12 Sack Lunches 6 Dinner on the road, returning from the beach. Team meeting	25 Morning prayer 7:30 Breakfast Head to the Airport	26	27	28
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IMPORTANT NOTE: Flexibility is the key! ALL ministry/outreach activities are customized to the communities' specific needs and are specifically determined closer to the time of the trip. Our goal is to best partner with the community we are going to serve.

Ready to get Started?????

We're making a few small changes here at T.E.A.R.S. in respect to how we work with Short Term Mission Teams. Mostly we want to help empower the local churches and ministries more, encouraging them to have a God given vision for impacting their communities with the gospel, and then help them develop those things. Our goal is not to do great things in the communities around the Dominican Republic, but to train, equip and help local churches to do great things in their communities.

T.E.A.R.S. Questionnaire?

We ask that you the team leader, or team of leaders, fill out the following Questionnaire. We will present the filled out Questionnaire to leaders from the different areas of ministry and local churches and give them the opportunity to choose your team. If you feel good about working with the area of ministry that chooses you then together you will make a plan of how you can jointly impact the community the locals are living and working in. Our T.E.A.R.S. Team coordinator will simply give direction, help in translation, and take care of the logistical details (such as financial details, room & board, etc).

Please be aware that this may require a bit more work to plan for, more thought and prayer of how your team can partner with and train the local body, and it may require that your team take more time to get prepared. Yet we feel this is the key to empowering the local churches and ministries.

If by chance you would prefer a broader mission experience, a sample of all the different areas of T.E.A.R.S. ministry, there will be an opportunity each summer for many different teams from all over North America to come together to do youth ministry, children's ministry, community work projects, construction at the TEARS center and more. Please inquire what the dates will be in 2009 if you are interested.

Short Term Mission Teams Questionnaire

Please copy and paste the following questions along with your answers into an email and send them to us. (Send to tracy@tears.org, and bautista@tears.org)

What is your team name and what is your home church?

What is the team leaders name and contact info?

What dates are options for your team coming down? How many days would you like to come?

How many people are you hoping will make up your team, and what kind of age group do you hope to bring down?

What would you like your team focus to be? (ex. Work Projects, children's ministry, youth ministry, family ministry, bible training, evangelistic outreaches, medical outreach, etc.)

Do imagine you'll have lots of Spanish speakers on your team, a few, or none?

As the team leader, what vision or passions do you hope to fulfill while on this mission trip?

Do you have a burden for a specific area of T.E.A.R.S. ministries? Or are you open to being placed in any area of need? (The church planting team, the TEARS school, the Haitian ministries, Mountain ministries, the TEARS leadership center, the local church in Maria Auxiliadora).

If needed, do you envision having extra funds available in order to do the activities you listed above? If so, how much?

Have you done other mission trips and if so what did you like or dislike?