LOVESERVES INTERNATIONAL

LoveServes.org

Annual International Report

EQUIP
DISCIPLE
SEND OUT

MARCH 8, 2018 SAVE THE DATE for our Annual Signature Fundraising Event

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Vision & Mission | Discipleship Program | Impactful Stories | Mission Trips

LOVESERVES INTERNATIONAL VISION

To develop Healthy Churches in all nations equipping God's people to make disciples, who make disciples. (Matthew 28:19a …make disciples of all nations)

Our Mission Statement

We are an international organization of Christians whose mission is to walk alongside Pastors mentoring and coaching them, to develop a healthy Church that equips its members to love God and love their neighbor.

> **"Equipping God's people for works of service for the building up of the Kingdom of Christ…" Ephesians 4:12**

God is using the Church to transform people spiritually, physically, and emotionally! Thousands and thousands of impoverished Dominican families are being transformed and we are thrilled to share how God takes the seeds we sow and supernaturally multiplies spiritual fruit!

"The emphasis on the Biblical truth and the application of Ephesians 4:11-12 in LoveServes International's strategy, is driving eternal results that Bonnie and I love investing in! Dollar for dollar there is no comparison!" ***~ BUCK JACOBS (FOUNDER OF C12)***

PRAYER FOCUS

- For Pastors "not to become weary in doing good…"Galatians 6:9.
- For like-minded people, churches, and organizations to join this important work in the DR and for expansion into other nations.
- Ask God to protect LoveServes staff, their families, and the difficult work of coaching churches to break out of legalism.
- For the Pastors to continue to fervently pray.
- For inspirational mentoring programs for the young people, the next Christ-centered generation.
- That the ONE-TO-ONE discipleship (XChange tool) will be used to ignite a nationwide movement of disciplemakers.

Serving God Together...

Thank you for your faithfulness!

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16

FINANCIAL REPORT

100% of donations go to cover the costs of ministry in the Dominican Republic.

Total costs: $1,147,341 | **Total income:** $1,275,450

WORKSHOPS
2016-2017

Training workshops provided for Pastors and their leaders.

Programs ● ● ● ● ● ● Attendance ●

HOLISTIC METHODS PRODUCING SPIRITUAL FRUIT

Teaching Churches to minister to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs produces enormous spiritual fruit.

"... For the Lord has done marvelous things." Joel 2:21 NKJV

MULTIPLYING CHANGE

Are we REALLY making disciples as Jesus commanded?

This is a very important question we as a ministry ask ourselves. **Over 10,000 adults are coming to Christ each year,** however we have come to recognize that we have only just begun to scratch the surface. There are still many churches in the Dom. Rep. that are ineffective because their members are not properly discipled with the expectation to make disciples themselves!

We feel the best way to ensure disciples are multiplying themselves is to disciple ONE-TO-ONE. The pilot project of discipleship implemented over the last two years has taught us that this is not a task that produces results in a short period of time but INDEED, if done well, produces a mature disciple with the ability to multiply.

This year we are even more excited about using a new one-to-one discipleship tool called XChange, written by our friend and partner, Pastor Steve McCoy. We are incredibly grateful to Pastor Steve, who worked countless hours to help us contextualize the materials for the Dominican culture and gave us permission to use XChange in Dominican Republic!

*And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. —**2 Timothy 2:2***

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DOMINICANS KNOW THAT **TRAFFICKING** IS A HUGE PROBLEM

LoveServes is partnering with IJM's (INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION) efforts to bring freedom to families held in slavery, children forced into prostitution, and others trapped in violent injustice in the Dominican Republic.

Because of Like-minded investors, 120 Churches were trained last year in how to deal with these issues and there have been great strides to:

- **Rescue people out of slavery, sex trafficking, and other forms of violent injustice**
- **Help survivors heal through aftercare and counseling**
- **Hold criminals accountable in local courts**
- **Help communities fix the problem for good—so no one else becomes a victim**

A STORY OF **MIRACULOUS TRANSFORMATION** Out of Madness … into Christ

From Coach José Luciano region, Cibao Sur - Dominican Republic. This is a before and after photo of Wascar Vallejo (El Mello), who is a well-known man in the streets of Bonao which is 53 miles north of Santo Domingo. His fame is not the product of some sporting or artistic talent, nor is it because he is a community leader. It is because Wascar is recognized as one of the craziest drug addicts of the city.

Before *After*

At a very young age, together with his twin brother, he began to consume drugs and little by little both brothers were immersed so deep that their parents threw them out of the house. Already on the street, the twins stole, begged for money, and looked in the trash, all to buy narcotics. Life worsened for Wascar when his brother died of an overdose. From that moment on, he sunk into a life of madness. El Mello, (a Dominican expression to identify twins) deteriorated in such a way that he ended up eating rats, crystals, and even drinking urine if someone would give him one dollar. Also, some men paid him small amounts to punch him in the face. He was the mockery on the streets of Bonao.

In desperation, this man tried to end his life by throwing himself into the street and lying on the pavement to be run over by a car. A leader named Milagros, of the Primitiva Evangelical Church, participated in the LoveServes trainings; her heart was broken and her passion for the lost multiplied extraordinarily. Milagros founded a rehabilitation center for addicts, which is headed up by one of the pastors named Carlos. Wascar was invited to enter the center one day when he approached Milagros asking for money. Twice he went into the program, but each time he would run away.

Finally, on the third attempt, he stayed in the program for 14 months. There he gave his life to Christ and his addiction and his madness disappeared! Many people stop him in the street to confirm that he really is the same person who they beat or served urine to for a few pesos. Wascar is now a small fruit merchant in the city market. He returned to live with his mother and is a faithful preacher of the word of God. Also, he helps with the rehabilitation of other addicts, as a volunteer at the center. Today, Wascar is a living example of the transforming power of Christ when the church cares about the needs of its community.

MISSION TRIPS

American and Dominican families transformed forever!

2017 Mission trip highlight. God gave us 6 amazing teams this past year -**March 11-18 in Barrio Blanco, June 24-July 1 in Haina, July 22-July 29 in Palmar de Ocoa, July 29-Aug 5 in Los Tamarindos and September 2-9 in Haina.** The following is one story.

July 1 – July 8 Los Canos de Maimon in Puerto Plata

21 Americans partnered with Pastor Bruno in building a new house for an elderly couple. It was abundantly clear that the Biblical principles of "loving

(continued on back page)

(more on "MISSION TRIPS")

the least of these" and equipping God's people were being applied through this church. Pastor Bruno has equipped over 50 leaders in a church of only about 150 adults. After building a relationship with a young man named Jeyfri while on the jobsite, William Church from North Carolina felt led to share the Gospel with Jeyfri. As you can see in this photo, Jeyfri said "yes" to Jesus. Thursday, that same week, we had the privilege to share the Gospel with his younger sister Eleny and she too became a Christian! They have no parents, but they take care of each other in a tiny run-down shack. The next day we asked Jeyfri how his sister was doing. He said they woke up that morning and prayed together for the first time!

The most exciting thing about this trip is that we got to reap the harvest after Pastor Bruno and his church have been sowing the fields in their community. They have been meeting the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of the people. One of the most powerful things we learned is how LoveServes coaching has impacted this pastor. This is the THIRD church in the last 10 years that Pastor Bruno has implemented this holistic mission that has transformed the surrounding area.

> *"For a long time now, I have believed in the importance of Ephesians 4:12 as central to the mission of the church. However, it is one thing to believe it in theory and another thing to actually live it out. I do not think I have ever seen this scriptural principle in action as fully as I did on this trip. LoveServes is equipping pastors who are equipping people in their communities, and those communities are being transformed for Jesus!"* ~ ***Brian Lawrence***

For more information on our **Mission Trip Profiles** visit our website: **LoveServes.org**

HOW TO GIVE VIA TEXT MESSAGE

TEXT 52014 then type in **@Love** in the message section. The response will be "How much would you like to donate?"... then **follow the prompts.**

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