



CELEBRATING THE FRUIT of this PAST YEAR'S MINISTRY

"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name." (Hebrews 13:15)

How exciting it is to come to you with news of what God has been doing this past year through LoveServes International! He strategically started LoveServes in the Dominican Republic to help pastors "equip God's people for the work of the ministry" (Eph. 4:12). And now, 12 years later, we are overjoyed to report that we've mentored 2,513 churches on how to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of "the least of these" (Matt. 25:35) in their communities.

Join us in celebrating the fruit of this past year's ministry labor that God has blessed for His kingdom's sake!

- Thousands of children are being assisted in after-school programs
- Through GRIP, our professional counseling services, we are seeing extraordinary results
- Addicts and their families are being restored
- Dozens of families now have cement floors and sturdy roofs without leaks
- 16,002 new adult believers and 8,381 believers were baptized
- 1,241 new community ministries were formed
- Regional coaches trained and worked with 199 new churches through hard work, dedication, and God's favor
- 204 new pastors/leaders participated in a Vision Workshop to help them grasp the vision for their own churches, fulfilling God's plan for an Ephesians 4:12 church
- 407 people are involved in the XChange ONE-TO-ONE discipleship program
- Pastors and their leaders are being trained to deal with hard issues such as prevention of and intervention in human trafficking and domestic violence
- Raised money for two new "slightly used" vehicles.
- Provided emergency kits and mattresses for Hurricane Beryl flood victims

Praise God for these initiatives of service, which are a testimony of the Church of Christ in hundreds of Dominican communities. See the reverse side for testimony to the ministry impact. We give thanks to God for the opportunity He gives us to be part of this ministry! Please celebrate with us for all God has done through your generous giving during this past fiscal year.

Financial Report as a result of your giving

100% of donations go to cover the costs of ministry in the Dominican Republic.
Total income: \$1,680,548

Prayer Focus

- For pastors "not to become weary in doing good" (Galatians 6:9)
- For God's guidance and blessing to expand our training, strengthen strategic alliances, and create opportunities for the growth of our team members
- "That God would bring the right inaugural small group of American pastors who would be a catalyst to spark transformation in the U.S. Church
- For God to increase the calling of people to go on short-term mission trips to the DR

God has a mission for us! Go, Learn, Return, Respond

Ephesians 4:12 says that God purposefully and uniquely gifted each of us "for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ...." Each of YOU has gifts God can use to bring about kingdom-changing work through you and in you. Would you consider joining us on a mission for Christ?

LoveServes mission trips offer opportunities to work, serve, play, and pray together with transformational outcomes. Would you begin praying today about going on a LoveServes mission trip to join God where He is already at work? **Visit our website to learn more: <http://loveserves.org>.**



Story of Transformation: Before and After

Jovany and Dominga

Jovany used to be a motor scooter taxi driver. He was also an alcoholic. Jovany, his wife, Dominga Marie, and their three children lived in a shack with a dirt floor. Going hungry every

day was normal for them. It didn't matter how much money Jovany made each day because he drank all of his earnings. Seldom did any of his money go to feed his family.

Dominga shared her story with us:

"Being married to an alcoholic was beyond difficult. My husband would leave the house to go to work but then stay out all night drinking. One day he didn't come back until 3:00 a.m. When I heard his motorcycle, I felt that something terrible was about happen. I didn't know the Lord then but I used to pray, 'Jesus, protect me. I know that your power is bigger than alcohol.'

"That night he brought home some chicken. He told me to wake the kids to have dinner. I said no because it was too late. But he woke my six-year-old daughter up and shoved some chicken in her mouth. It had a bone in it so I quickly took it out of her mouth because she was too young to eat it. He got so angry that he destroyed the table and chairs. Then he got some gasoline from the motorcycle and tried to burn down the house with all of us in it. I struggled to take the matches from his hand and shouted to my neighbor for help. She knew him and was used to these kinds of situations. She came to help, and we managed to keep him from burning the house down.

"Jovany continued to destroy things in the house. He forced the kids and me outside, and we slept on the dirt in the backyard. The next day he was still drinking and finished destroying everything in the house, even the curtains.

"It was a horrible life. I didn't know how I could go on. We were together fourteen years before we met Christ. Looking back now, I believe God allowed everything to happen to me so I could help other women and couples in the same situation with my testimony. I thank God that He gave me the strength to never give up.

"My daughter Yoeli was involved in the children's program at a church. She asked us to go with her to church many, many times. After this incident with my husband we finally went. The men of the church would come to our house and spend time with my husband so he wouldn't go back to his alcoholic friends. They made our house a regular meeting place to play dominoes, hold prayer and worship services, and host dinners, and they introduced him to a baseball team. Eventually we gave our lives to Jesus. I know that I have a family in the church. They have remained with us through every problem.

After we came to Christ, we wanted to officially get married, but we didn't have money for a wedding. But the Lord supplied unexpectedly through the church. It was the wedding of my dreams! Every chance I get, I tell others about Jesus so they too will experience the faithfulness of God and be set free." Dominga Marie

THE IMPACT OF THE CHURCH REACHING OUT: Jovany now has a good job, and he and Dominga live in a decent home with their family. Jovany has become an outreach leader at his church and was key in planting two more daughter churches. Dominga is the leader of the food ministry. Their son graduated from high school and is enrolled in college, and their older daughter is a senior in high school and leads the drama team in worship.

Jovany and Dominga are living proof that Jesus is the only answer to all of our problems. He is the only way to transform our spiritual, physical, and emotional pain into joy.

We are grateful for your part in building God's Kingdom.

Stephanie Smith • Peter Swanson • Martin Newby • Patricia Vazquez

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