

LOVESERVES INTERNATIONAL

Annual Report Celebrating Eternal Impact!



CELEBRATING THE FRUIT of the PAST 12 MONTHS

Through God's blessing, we witness the donation of time, talent, and financial support that bring hope to people suffering material poverty in the Dominican Republic (DR) and Guatemala. **We are witnessing pastors and churches becoming passionately healthy disciple-makers who love their neighbors.**

We witness lives being transformed and families accepting Christ as their Lord and Savior. We are encouraged as those families join the local church and help transform their communities. God is multiplying spiritual seeds planted to bear great fruit! **May we not grow weary as His faithful sowers (Galatians 6:9-10).**

Join us in celebrating the fruit of the past 12 months!

- ✓ 15,427 ADULTS CAME TO CHRIST IN JUST 12 MONTHS!
- ✓ 139 churches were trained in Natural Church Development in the DR, and 19 were trained in Guatemala, for a total of 2,671 churches in the last 13 years.
- ✓ 2,784 new community ministries were launched, including preschools for single moms, family counseling, prison ministry, housing improvement for the impoverished, and elder care.
- ✓ LoveServes has 9 coaches, each one touching 50 to 60 pastors/churches.
- ✓ 81 new pastors and 68 of their key leaders attended the 3-day Vision Conference, which ignites a paradigm shift
- ✓ Now in Florida : The inaugural group of U.S. pastors has completed 8 months of training; the second group will launch by early 2020.
- ✓ A total of 103 people (just like YOU) went on LoveServes mission trips, serving alongside 7 different Dominican churches

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.

Prayer Focus

- For all nations to have healthy churches, equipping God's people to make disciples, who then make disciples. (Matthew 28:19a "make disciples of all nations")
- For the faithful execution of our mission: to walk alongside pastors, mentoring and coaching them to develop a healthy Church that equips its members to love God and love their neighbor
- For pastors throughout the world, that they will "not become weary in doing good"; for unity and love among the body of Christ
- For our staff: strength, wisdom, balance, and focus
- In the U.S.: For God to bring the next 10 pastors to the Four12 Pastor Peer Group. These U.S. pastors will walk in the path that has energized 2,652 Dominican pastors.
- For 3 replacement ministry vehicles for our DR coaches (\$60,000)
- For like-minded people, churches, and organizations to join this important work and for expansion into other nations

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." This year, 103 men, women, and young people served as the hands and feet of Jesus alongside local Dominican church members. They stepped into an 8-day experience to work, serve, play, and pray together, with transformational outcomes. For many this was a significant step in their journey to become the hands and feet of Jesus in their own churches and local communities. **Visit our website to learn more: www.LoveServes.org**

Financial Report

100% of your generous gift goes directly to cover the costs of ministry without any overhead deductions. LovesServes total giving in the last 12 months was \$1,349,219! Thank you!



Albania with Pastor Julio Sept 2019

God is continuing to grow His Church: A Story of Transformation

Albania Zapata and the community of Mata Gorda

“I was a violent woman. I fought with women, with men. I didn’t care if it was a police officer who provoked me. I was always ready to fight!” remembers Albania Zapata, a young woman with a sordid past on the streets of her native Baní.

At an early age, Albania was introduced to the world of witchcraft and, later, began to use drugs. In a short time, she was selling marijuana, cocaine, and crack. Her sister, a member of the Assemblies of God Church in Mata Gorda, a rural community 37 miles west of Santo Domingo, had always shared the Gospel with Albania. Albania listened to her sister, but her ties to drugs and obscene altars were powerful. **Pastor Julio Díaz was part of the first LoveServes training networks. The vision he received through his association with coach Rafael Tejeda sensitized him to work with people like Albania, so when she finally agreed to go to Mata Gorda with her sister, the congregation was ready to receive her. Albania decided to accept Jesus as her Lord!**

“The church supported me”, Albania says. **“They didn’t isolate me but instead made me part of the work immediately.** My pastor is a man of God who has taught me and guided me in the ministry in which I serve today. **I’ve received a lot of love from my pastor and the church leaders. When that happens, it’s certain that you’ll grow as a Christian.**

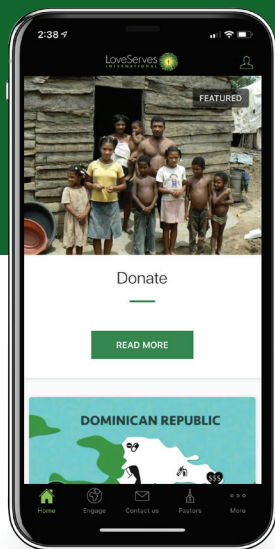
“People like me—those who are in the grip of drugs—are rejected and taken out of society, so I work with them now, because that’s where God found me. The pastor has nicknamed me ‘the Ambulance’ because I love carrying sick people from one hospital to another. I don’t get tired of serving. **God has given me the missionary ministry, and I feel His presence when I’m helping someone who’s sick, hungry, or enslaved by idolatry and vice.”**

Not only Albania was transformed. Pastor Julio Díaz testifies that Mata Gorda was once a violent community. Brawls often began in three bars on the same street, leaving many people wounded. Today it’s different. The bars are gone, and the church continues to grow. In fact, Albania is a leader in a new church that was planted in a crowded neighborhood in Baní.

THE IMPACT OF A CHURCH THAT REACHES OUT: Once an addict, drug dealer, and sorceress whom even men feared, Albania is now a servant of Christ who glorifies His name by serving those in need, especially those who live enslaved to sin. She is truly a transformed woman!

Thank you for being generous! You have planted spiritual seeds for the kingdom of God!

Stephanie Smith • Patricia Vazquez • Peter Swanson • Martin Newby



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