Ministry Site Descriptions – Dominican Republic

**ART – Francisco Castillo**
Francisco Castillo runs a year-round art school in downtown Jarabacoa. Teaching drawing and painting to students ages 10 and up, their goal is to both share the gospel and prepare their students to produce art that sells. During the summer, teams are taken out into the community where they will be using art as an evangelistic tool painting murals, doing art in the local park with the shoeshine boys, sketching local children, and following whatever other art adventure may come their way.

**CONSTRUCTION**
The Students International construction ministry primarily focuses on helping families with limited resources build or make improvements on their houses. We normally require the families to come up with the materials for the project, and we supply the tools and help with the labor. Outreach participants working at the construction ministry may dig footers, lay block, mix and pour concrete, and do basic carpentry.

**DENTISTRY – Vanesa Nolasco**
The dentistry site in Jarabacoa provides dental care to the poor through our clinic where Vanesa cleans, fills, and extracts teeth for her patients. She leads outreaches in rural communities where dental care is less accessible and affordable and also teaches dental hygiene to children in the public school system.

Students at this site will work along Vanesa assisting her in client visits. Students also may visit local schools and give instruction for good dental hygiene. Another key responsibility is calming fear in children who visit the dentist site by reading books, praying, and playing.

**DEVELOPMENTAL THERAPY – Amy Green**
The Developmental Therapy site works in partnership with Centro Especial Genesis to provide pediatric therapy services to children with disabilities. Students ministering in this site will participate in therapy sessions with the children, recess, bible study and worship times along with teachers and children at the school. Some time will also be spent visiting patients in their homes.

The goal of the Developmental Therapy site is to see the children become more independent in school, at home, and in the community.

**EDUCATION (El Callejón) – Anyely Williams & Yajaira Peguero**
Students International’s Pre-Escolar Arcoiris is located in a rural squatter community. The preschool has an enrollment of twenty-seven children ages three to six. When children graduate from the preschool, they are doing basic math, know how to read, and have the social and study skills needed to be successful in school. They also are taught about the God who created them and loves them. Outreach participants working at Pre-Escolar Arcoiris help prepare educational materials, tutor children needing individual attention, help with classroom activities, and have the opportunity to love on and be positive role models for the children.
EDUCATION (Los Higos) – Johana Berroa
In January of 2009, S.I. opened Mis Primeros Pasos, a new preschool in the mountain community of Los Higos. The preschool currently has enrollment for twelve children and will be expanded to twenty-four children by the fall of 2010. Our goal is to give the children a solid spiritual and educational foundation and to also reach the parents with the gospel. Outreach participants serving at the preschool will help prepare lessons, work with children needing individual attention in mastering concepts, and help with classroom activities.

EDUCATION (Mata Gorda) – Alberto de los Santos & Katie Lombard
Students International preschool at Mata Gorda is located in a poor farming community with a beautiful view of the mountains. Generations of families without a relationship with God has produced drug and alcohol problems and fractured family structures. Alberto and Katie teach at this preschool and each have their own classroom. Outreach participants serving at the preschool will help prepare lessons, work with children needing individual attention in mastering concepts, and help with classroom activities.

HEALTH CARE – Fernando Gonzalez
Our medical site sees patients in the local public hospital and a private clinic. Students at this site will help with patient care, observe the public health system, assist with vaccination programs and aide in community health education. He also leads medical outreaches in rural communities where health care is less accessible and affordable.

MICROFINANCE – Ryan Holloway
Ryan Holloway leads a microfinance site in El Callejón. The site provides savings accounts, small business loans, and financial education to women with the deliberate intention of sharing The Gospel and including students in the ministry. Women in the program go through an education period of 4 weeks and then receive small loans averaging $200. In weekly meetings thereafter, they have a Bible study, and pay back their loans. There is also business coaching offered on an individual basis to those who need it. The site also works with 8-12 year old boys in El Callejón by giving them ways to earn prizes by attending club meetings, completing community improvement projects, and running small businesses.

PHYSICAL THERAPY – Daniel Speciale
The physical therapy site treats members of the community from all ages with varying disabilities. Through serving in love we want to establish, build, and nurture long lasting relationships with those in the community in order that they see Christ’s love in us. Students on short term mission trips are involved with patients and family members during physical therapy in many different ways such as: performing stretching and strengthening exercises, apply ultrasound/electrical stimulation, make hot/cold packs, maintain the cleanliness of the clinic, assist with patient transfers, and learn about the importance of physical therapy. The main goal for our students is to open their hearts to the people they have come to serve and show Christ’s love through their service and realize the gifts God has given them to use in their occupation.
SOCIAL WORK (El Callejón) – Daisy Murillo
The social work site in El Callejon builds unity among abused women and teenage girls through home visits, Bible study, craft projects, and a various other activities. We teach biblical principles concerning self-confidence, responsibility, sexual purity, wise decision-making, and character development.

SOCIAL WORK (Los Higos) – Arlene Lee
The Social Work - Women's Center Site is a ministry to the people of Los Higos, a small rural community, with a special focus on women and girls. We study the Bible and apply it to our lives. Skills, such as knitting and sewing, are taught. We help women build Lorena stoves, which are a wood burning cook stoves that are better for the environment and health. We desire to help women find their true identity in Christ and live that out in all spheres of life. This site is led by Arlene, who formerly was a part of the 'Ag Site'. We are in transition to a greater focus on women, but are likely to still get dirty. Students at this site will likely learn from the women (skills such as knitting and cooking) as well as teach (contributing to Bible studies that are relevant to the lives of women and girls). Students will have opportunities to enter into women's lives by spending time with them in their homes.

SPECIAL EDUCATION – Fausto Ramos
Students International’s Centro Especial Genesis is a school for mental and physically challenged children and is the only school of its kind in the area. There thirty children with Downs Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, and severe learning disabilities are given the opportunity to learn in a loving and accepting environment. Outreach participants are assigned to one of five classrooms where they assist the teacher in achieving specific educational and behavioral goals set for each child in the class.

SPORTS (Women) – Jess Gates
Jess serves the teenage girls of Jarabacoa by offering an outlet for them through sports. Through this ministry site, Jess focuses on teaching, training and disciplining girls using the sport as volleyball as a way to connect to the girls. Jess is able to share the Gospel Message with the women and teens in a way that meets them where they are at. On a daily basis, she coaches two teams in different communities. This culture is a very macho culture. As a result, many girls find their identity in their bodies and what they have to offer the guy. As a result, many girls get involved in sexual relationships and by age 18, many girls already have gotten pregnant at least once. Jess tries to use sports (specifically volleyball) to teach many valuable lessons and help girls to build confidence. Our hope is that she can play a role in preventing the cycle that daily influences so many young women in this culture.

SPORTS (Men) – Raul Diaz
The purpose of this site is to use sports, particularly baseball, as a way to develop relationships with the young men and boys through which the Gospel can effectively be communicated. Raul typically concentrates on baseball, however sometimes includes basketball and soccer, daily meeting thirty boys, ages 8-20, at the community ball field. He not only coaches them, but he also befriends and mentors them.