

Dominican Republic Mission Trip Update –

Greetings from Iglesia Episcopal San Pablo Apostol (The Apostle St. Paul Episcopal Church) in Jimini, Dominican Republic. We arrived safely at Santo Domingo International Airport on Friday morning. After a brief rest we walked around Santo Domingo for a bit, learning about some of the history of the city. After an overnight at the diocesan retreat house we headed out for our 6 hour road trip to Jimini. We were warmly greeted by Fr. Nephtaly and spent Saturday afternoon settling in to the dormitory at the church. Sunday morning Fr. Mac celebrated the Eucharist (in Spanish!) while our other two priests (Jim Munroe and Peter Swarr) preached. We used the rest of the day to get ready for the week of Vacation Bible School. Monday morning we had 180 students. On Monday afternoon Fr. Mac and Anna Maria joined a small shopping group to purchase groceries for 125 families (3 days' worth of food for each family) for a total of \$630. It is mind blowing thinking about feeding a family for \$1.70 a day.

By Tuesday the word had spread and we had 222 students along with our 45 leaders (22 of us and 23 Dominican and Haitian volunteers). Anna Maria and Melocotón (Ann Marie and Peach) are teaching Music and Crafts respectively. Ani is working with the 3-5 year old group and Ethan is helping with the Games rotation. Fr. Mac is helping with Music and running around taking pictures).

We're hot, sweaty, tired, some are dazed by the poverty, but we are all glad to be here. The smiling faces of the 222 children all make it worth it. Thank you for your continued prayers.

This is the beginning of the day:



Blessings,

Fr. Mac+