

# Education Across Borders/ The Pentecost Project

## *Solidaridad con Quisqueya*

*Service-Learning Immersion in the Dominican Republic*

*Two-Week Summer Program*

This program offers participants a unique opportunity to know and come into solidarity with the poor of the Third World. We will journey to the Dominican Republic, immersing ourselves in its rich history and culture, and meet the poor—in their own communities, on their own terms—so as to understand their reality and the reality of most of our world. Participants will be challenged to grow intellectually, emotionally, physically, and spiritually as they become intimately familiar with the life of coffee growers (and the impact of Fair Trade coffee), of city dwellers who work in the sweatshop industry, and of Haitian immigrants who harvest sugar cane and other crops. Participants will stay in the homes of Dominican families for part of this experience. The group will be invited to collaborate in on-going community development projects that address the roots and manifestations of poverty in this country. Reflection, in both individual and daily shared-prayer format, will form an integral part of our experience.

### **Program Itinerary**

- Day 1:           **arrive in Santiago/Puerto Plata**  
Orientation at retreat center; primers on 3<sup>rd</sup> World living  
Evening meal and prayer at retreat center
- Day 2:           **visit to Santiago/Puerto Plata**; historical/cultural tour of city  
*La Raza Dominicana*: Tainos, Spaniards, and West Africans  
King Sugar: legacy of colonialism  
DR/US relations  
Option for the Poor: What does it mean, here and now?
- Days 3-8:       **visit to Franco Bidó, Juncalito**  
Group stays with families in the community  
Collaboration in community project: *Construcción de casas*  
Coffee Crisis: a community's perspective and response  
Focus on Education/ Health/ Youth (charlas and/or intercambio)  
Celebration of Eucharist; shared daily prayer
- Day 8:           **return from Franco Bidó** to retreat center  
Charla on *el campo*; processing, and preparing for the future  
Evening meal and shared prayer

**Day 9: visit to Santiago: Cien Fuegos and One Respe**

The hope of the city—fact or fiction?

Life inside and out of the sweatshops

The Church standing with the poor

Living with and responding to HIV/AIDS

*Taller de Artesanía*: candles and other hand-made gifts

**Days 10-12: visit to Batey Libertad, Esperanza**

Immigrant life, including perspectives on racism

Human Rights of “Invisible” Haitians

Examination of work of Catholic Relief Services and other NGOs

Collaboration in community project: *Construcción de casas*

**Day 13: closing rituals; return to US**

What’s Your Response? What Will We Build?