

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

KID MISSIONARY CHALLENGE





kid missionary challenge

**Six part prayer guide for the people of the
Dominican Republic.**

LEADER INSTRUCTIONS

This Kid Missionary Challenge is to pray for the people of the Dominican Republic. We suggest that you follow this six part guide on a weekly basis. Our hope is that you will use this simple tool to teach your kids about world evangelism. Each part includes:

Topic – describing the focus of the prayer guide

Introduction – providing context or background for the prayer

Prayer Needs – listing actual needs of the Dominican Republic people

You can download pictures, music, and videos at the link below (case sensitive). Look for media cues *[like this]* when you unpack these ideas for kids.

bit.ly/KMCmedia

PRAY GIVE GO

KMC exists to help kids *pray*, *give*, and *go* with missionaries around the world. You are leading kids in *prayer* for the people of the Dominican Republic. God is calling many of them to *go* across cultures and tell people about Jesus. Consider *giving* toward those who are ministering to the unreached peoples of the Dominican Republic. You can give online following the link below or by using the contribution form attached to the back of this KMC prayer guide.

bit.ly/KMCdomrep

PART 1

Topic – The Dominican

The Dominican Republic is located on the 2nd largest island in the Caribbean, shared by only one neighboring country, Haiti *[map]*. The DR is very hot and humid all year round. Humid means you sweat a lot. ☺ There are lots of palm trees, banana trees, and beaches. The people in the Dominican Republic speak Spanish.

The Bellos work with Dominican youth and university students (ages 12-24) and with the leaders who work with and invest in these students. These students face difficult challenges such as poverty, teenage pregnancy, gangs, alcoholism, and abuse. There are more pregnant teenage girls in the Dominican Republic than in any other country in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

- Pray that the Bellos can help students find hope in Jesus.
- Pray that the Dominican teenagers choose to live a life of purity that reflects a Jesus heart.

PART 2

Topic – Introducing the Bello's *[Family picture]*

Jamie grew up in Eastern Washington. At summer camp at age 17, God called her to be a youth pastor. When she became a youth pastor, she took teenagers on mission's trip overseas. One of those trips was to the DR. While there, God called her to return to the DR as a missionary to youth fulltime *[Jamie].*

Berly grew up in the Dominican Republic as a pastor's son *[Berly]*. He loves to play the piano and write and record music in his studio. God called him when he was a teen to use his musical talents to help youth find hope in Jesus. They have two sons, *Ethan (7)* and *Logan (5)*. Both boys love Jesus, playing sports and video games.

The Bello's mission is to Change a Culture through a Generation. They desire to empower students and youth leaders to find their hope and identity in Christ, to help them live in purity, and to mobilize them to go out and BE the difference by sharing hope and becoming disciple makers (helping friends learn about Jesus).

The Bello's host camps, youth conferences, school assemblies, paint Basketball courts, do Diva days for girls, and teach youth leaders how to love on students and teach them to be disciple makers. They also coach students to lead small groups of their friends at their schools and universities in order to help them learn how to follow Jesus (this is disciple making).

- Pray that more students choose to become disciple makers at their school and university.
- Pray that we can start small groups at all 40 universities in the Dominican Republic.

PART 3

Topic – Kids in the Dominican Republic

Dominican kids love to play baseball. They often do not have a glove and bat like a kid in the USA, so they find long sticks to use as bats, and water jug lids (kind of like milk jug lids) to use as the ball to hit! That's probably why they get to be so good at baseball, and why there are so many Dominican Major League Baseball players – like Robinson Canó and Nelson Cruz, who play for the Seattle Mariners. *[Baseball]*

Dominican kids love to eat plantains, a special kind of banana that can be cooked all the same ways we cook a potato. (Fried, mashed, boiled, baked.) They eat the fried plantains (*"tostones"*) with ketchup, just like you might eat your French fries. *[Plantains]*

Since most kids do not have a yard or driveway where they can ride a bike, they will go to parks to ride bikes or scooters, if they have one. If they don't, they'll take turns sharing with a friend.

- Pray that our sons Ethan and Logan would be able to share Jesus with other kids as they play sports together.
- Pray that God would help the Bello's provide sports equipment to kids and teens who have none; as a way to share the love of Jesus.

PART 4

Topic – Catholicism

The main religion in the DR is Catholicism. The Catholic people believe in the same God that we do, but they do not usually understand that God wants to have a personal relationship with them. They think of God as distant and someone with lots of rules. The Bello's want them to understand that He loves each and every one of them and that they can have a close friendship with Him.

Unfortunately, the church in the DR is not always friendly to newcomers. It has lots of rules with many DOs and DON'T's and hard core discipline enacted when youth break rules. Kind of like when you disobey your parents. Those rules keep unchurched youth from wanting to attend and when they do, they often leave because they do not feel accepted. This drives them away from God and the church.

In the university, there are many students and professors (teachers) who do not believe that God exists. When a Christian student tries to share about Jesus, they are laughed at, called names and told that they are dumb for believing like they do. It can be hard for a Christian student to stand strong for Jesus and share Him with others. *[University]*

- Please pray that the DR students will keep the faith in Jesus and share Him with others even when it is hard.
- Please pray that the churches will be more like Jesus and welcome youth who come visit even if they do not look and act like a church goer.

PART 5

Topic – Needs of the Church

Many teenage and university students have accepted Jesus as Savior in the Bello's ministry. **Fermariz** came to Puente Community Center *[Community Center]*, and after visiting for a few weeks, she asked Jesus to come into her heart during one of their Wednesday gatherings. Then she joined a girl's small group on campus led by other students, and she is learning more about Jesus each week. *[Girls Small Group]*

Maiki came to the Puente Center right after graduating from high school. He took the class with Jamie to learn how to become a disciple maker, and recruited friends to join his new small group of guys that meets weekly on the grass in the middle of the university campus. At a leaders' retreat, he asked the Bello's to pray that he would be baptized in the Holy Spirit. He received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and ever since he has been more bold in sharing Jesus with friends at school. *[Makiki being baptized]*

Pilar's parents got divorced when she was a teenager. She almost stopped coming to church and wasn't very interested in God. But her youth pastor (he's on the leadership team) invited

her to a youth conference and they offered to pay ½ the price so she could go. She loved the fun event and saw hundreds of teens like her praising Jesus. It changed her heart. Later at a mission's event the Bello's hosted, God called her to the ministry. She went to special training school they promoted, was able to raise money to go on a 3 month mission's trip to Surinam in South America, and after that returned to start working in the Bello's ministry office as Jamie's assistant. She has received training to become a youth pastor, and was called by a pastor of a church this year to do just that. Now she invests in teenage students just like her youth pastor invested in her when she was a hurting teenager. **[Pilar]**

- Pray that God would help us train youth leaders to be mentors to younger students.
- Pray that we can help provide safe places where students can find community and belonging as well as hope in Jesus.

PART 6

Topic – Puente Community Center

The local university in Santo Domingo does not have a student center, coffee shop, or a place for students to connect and come together on campus. There is currently no place for students to go during long breaks in between classes – except under trees in the hot sun or rain. The Bello's have an opportunity to provide a practical and spiritual doorway into their ministry by providing the Puente Community Center, one block from the university campus. It is close enough for them to come to in between classes and during lunch breaks. They can heat up their rice and beans in the microwave, use the clean restrooms, get drinking water for free, do their homework, and study with friends. The Bello's host English classes, music lessons, and other special activities. But the best part is that the unchurched students who come, make new friends with students who know Jesus. They have a weekly gathering at Puente on Wednesdays where they are able to share about Jesus, and they have classes during the week to train students to be disciple makers by leading small groups on campus with friends. **[Community Center]**

Kids have been helping the Bello's with the Puente Community Center project through BGMC offerings. They have given funds both for the initial rental contract, and now towards the purchase of the property to make it theirs for good. (They have raised \$100,000 so far, towards the total purchase price of \$400,000.)

- Pray that more unchurched students will come to Puente and meet Jesus through friendships there.
- Pray that we will raise all the money needed to buy the Puente Community Center property.



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KMC – Dominican Republic

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