
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 2019 REPORT



Hope for La Vega, Dominican Republic

January 28 - February 5, 2019

In partnership with 103 evangelical churches from the central region of Dominican Republic, Reid Saunders Association brought hope and healing to more than 80,000 people in the traditionally Catholic island. There was a tremendous spiritual battle being waged for the hearts and minds of the island residents as the annual Mardi Gras festival was scheduled to begin the same weekend as the RSA Buena Vida outreach festival.

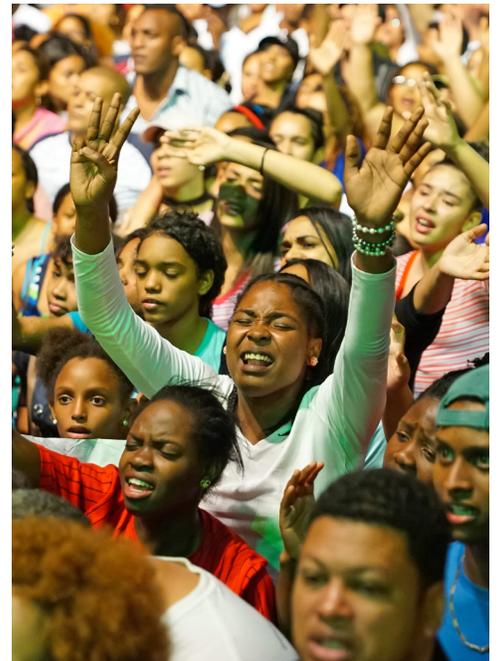
La Vega is considered the main tourist destination for party-goers and Carnival activities surrounding Mardi Gras. The team felt the spiritual darkness and oppression as they toured the city, and lifted their requests to God. They were joined by hundreds of faithful prayer partners back home. The stage was set for a battle between darkness and light.

Through your prayers and partnership, the battle was won.

During the week leading up to the RSA festivals, Reid and Ruth met with pastors, observing their unity and strong desire to reach the city of La Vega with the hope of the Gospel message. The RSA medical team held five clinics in various poor suburbs surrounding the city. Other team members went to public schools sharing personal testimonies, music, BMX bike demonstrations and gospel presentations. Three hundred women turned out for a night of worship and encouragement. Reid and partnering evangelist Richard Hamlet were invited guests on a popular local TV station, sharing the Gospel with 1.2 million viewers.

Through your prayers and partnership, the battle was won. Friday, the first night of the Buena Vida outreach, 20,000 people came to the RSA festival. Each night, the crowds increased, filling the venue. An estimated 80,000 people heard the Good News of Jesus Christ proclaimed through music and preaching. Mardi Gras attendance across town was the lowest in history. Each night, thousands raised their hands to make a public profession of faith. A total of 20,672 people made decisions to follow Christ during the ten days of outreach. La Vega will be changed for years to come.

Thousands of hands are raised to indicate a desire to follow Jesus on the final night of the festival.



HIGHLIGHTS

458 TREATED
IN MEDICAL
CLINICS



80,770

HEARD THE
GOOD NEWS
IN PERSON

400



clothing items distributed



103 CHURCHES INVOLVED

20,672 DECISIONS TO FOLLOW CHRIST

300 WOMEN ATTEND CONFERENCE EVENT



Enthusiastic crowds greeted a popular Christian recording artists on Saturday night.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS Esther 4:14

“Each member of the team served a different role. Medical clinics were a beacon of hope and health. The music and the bikers were all rallying support for the big festival events coming up. It was amazing to see God plan unfold throughout the day.” – Craig Holt, board member, first trip with RSA

Monday: The first medical clinic in mountain village of El Tanque. Team members prayed for a woman diagnosed with cerebral hemorrhages. Jesus healed her and now she will tell others about what Jesus did for her.

Tuesday: Another busy day at the clinics, school outreaches and street events. Now we are getting ready for a women’s affinity event and Tara will be giving her testimony, sharing the apron prayer story, and giving an altar call. Leaders planned for 100 but 300 enthusiastic women showed up.

Wednesday: Reid met with 60 pastors today and is also doing a press conference for radio and TV. Medical team saw 80 patients today and also made extra house calls to visit patients that were too sick to come to the clinics.

Thursday: It was an awesome time at the schools today. Most of the students made decisions to follow Christ. One of our drivers also gave his life to Jesus today.

Friday: We have felt a strong spiritual attack today. But in Christ we have the victory! The city of La Vega celebrates the largest Mardi Gras carnival on the island. It’s pretty gory. Our festival is coming just before that. This is the first night of our Buena Vida festival. Reid appeared on a popular live TV broadcast to an estimated 1.2 million viewers. Great turnout at our festival tonight. Amazing, God wants to make a difference in the DR!

Saturday: More than 25,000 at the Festival tonight. Reid spoke tonight and thousands are raising their hands to make a commitment to Christ. God is moving.

Sunday: Even bigger crowds tonight, they estimated 30,000. A 20 year old young man named Braylin came to the festival on the last night. On the way home, he was in a motorcycle accident and was killed. As pastors went through the decision cards for the Saturday night festival, they discovered a card with his name on it and his decision to follow Christ that night. The pastor, his family, and team of volunteers were deeply saddened by the news of Braylin’s death but rejoiced in the discovery of his timely decision and the hope that they would spend eternity together.



Team members encourage and pray for one of the women at a medical clinic



Craig and Debbie Holt distributed clothing to needy Haitian children.



Nurses Bev and Norma enjoy a baby break during a busy day of volunteer work.



Hundreds of volunteers moved through the capacity crowd to record decision maker names.



Three hundred women gathered at a special affinity event for prayer, worship and encouragement from Tara Boelke and White Ribbon Day Band.



Musician and evangelist, Zach Blickens presented the Gospel to students at numerous schools assemblies.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your prayers and vital support for this outreach to La Vega, Dominican Republic. Your partnership helped reach more than 80,000 people with the Gospel and 20,672 that made life-changing decisions to follow Christ. Your involvement has opened the doors for thousand to find the hope that is only found in Jesus Christ. The city will be impacted for many years to come. We are truly humbled by your generosity and God's mighty display of power.



“I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.” John 10:10



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