

Medical Missions to the Dominican Republic and to Viet Nam

Overview: Provide ENT surgical care to peasants living near Santiago, Dominican Republic, and two trips to Viet Nam to "teach the teachers."

I have led a 40-member team to the ILAC (Institute for Latin American Concern), Santiago, Dominican Republic multiple times. The team provides ENT medical and surgical care to peasants in about 125 remote villages two to four hours from Santiago over a one-week period. The team includes attending and resident otolaryngologists, attending and resident anesthesiologists, CRNAs (certified registered nurse anesthetists), audiologists, nurses-operating room, recovery room, and clinic, biomedical technicians, medical students, and lay volunteers. On the typical trip we see 300-500 patients and perform 100-125 surgeries in the week.

I also participated in two medical service trips to Vietnam in 1997 and 1998. The trips were sponsored by Resource Exchange International (REI). Each trip was two weeks in length, spending a week in Hanoi and a week in Ho Chi Minh City. We had about 10-15 otolaryngologists on each trip, plus some spouses and children. The goal was to "teach the teachers" current otolaryngology techniques. We also brought donated equipment. I was able to get a complete video endoscopic set for each city. We gave lectures and did some surgery with the Vietnamese surgeons. REI goes to numerous third world countries, assisting with education, business, agriculture, etc.

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