

“HEY KIDS, REMEMBER...”



Pray for the chaplains and missionaries who are using baseball chapels and other baseball related events to tell athletes about Jesus.

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**GREAT COMMISSION KIDS** aims to **nurture a love for missions** that will  
encourage children to be active in the Great Commission throughout  
their lives.

This **quarterly** publication is mailed **free** to individual children or adult  
leaders of children. To financially **contribute** to this project or for other  
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**GC Kids** is a service of **World Team**:  
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## Your Talent— Jesus' Tool

God wants all people  
to be saved from  
their sins and to  
come to a knowledge  
of the truth about  
Him. That is what the  
Bible says in 1  
Timothy 2:4.

He has many, many  
ways of getting that  
to happen. One of  
those ways is to use  
our talents and  
interests as a tool to  
connect with people.  
The story of this  
issue is about how  
God is doing that in  
the Dominican  
Republic.



## Jesus and Baseball



Baseball is called America's national  
pastime, but it's also the favorite pastime  
of kids in the Dominican Republic. Boys  
in the Dominican grow up doing two  
things: going to school and playing  
baseball. There is no little league baseball  
like in America, but kids form  
neighborhood leagues and you can see  
them playing the sport on just about every  
street corner. Many of those boys  
dream of playing in the Major  
Leagues when they grow up.

Bill Stothers is a missionary who  
also had dreams of playing  
professional baseball. He played all  
through high school and one year of  
college but never signed to play for a

professional team. God had other plans for Bill and his wife Priscilla. In 1983 they went to live in the Dominican Republic as missionaries. They shared God's Word, disciplined new believers and helped the churches grow.

It wasn't long before Bill was asked to start leading chapels for baseball players of one of the professional teams where he lived in Santiago. Later he was asked to start a chapel with another professional team about an hour away from his home in another city. Shortly after that, major league teams started opening academies in the Dominican

Republic and Bill was asked to offer chapel services in three of those academies as well.

The baseball academies are where young players learn the sport and improve their skills. Some of the players will be recruited to play for the Major League teams in America.

Bill was eager to work with the athletes. He began leading Bible studies and helping the young men. Because of their busy schedules, the athletes aren't able to go to church. The baseball chapels bring church to the players. They meet in the dugouts or in stadiums for

Bible studies and to pray together.

Today there are thirty Major League academies and six winter league teams in the Dominican Republic. Bill recruits chaplains to work with all these academies so that the hundreds of baseball players have a chance to hear the Gospel and enjoy being part of a community of believers.



Bill's first dream of being a professional baseball player didn't come true. But he trusted God to show him what to do with his life.

When asked what it's like to have served as a missionary for thirty years, Bill says, "I'm living the greatest adventure of my life, and I would do it all over again!"

Remember, God has something special for each of us to do as we live for Him. It might turn out to be something other than what you thought.

One day the apostle Paul and his missionary partner, Barnabas, were in a city preaching. Some people in the city said that Paul and Barnabas should not preach to Gentiles. That is, anyone who was not a Jew. They thought that God could be known only by Jews. Paul answered them this way: "God told us that he wants us to preach to all kinds of people." Acts 13:47 is what God told them.

God wants all people to know Him. Color this verse and ask God to help **YOU** be a light to the nations!

"I have made you  
a light to the nations,  
that you may  
bring salvation  
to the ends  
of the earth."  
Acts 13:47

to the  
ends  
of the earth

Children's Activity Page #1, 2005  
by Kay Stotts, missionary to Latin America

This activity is used in cooperation with Free Methodist World Missions, [www.fmwm.org](http://www.fmwm.org), from [fmcusa.org/fmwm/childrens-activity-pages-2](http://fmcusa.org/fmwm/childrens-activity-pages-2)

God gave Bill and Pricilla Stothers special skills so they can be a light of the Gospel to the people of the Dominican Republic.

What skills or interests has God given you?

God wants to use those, too, to bring His salvation to people.

T  
A  
SKILL  
E  
N  
T

# The Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20 and more

## 1 Timothy 2:4 (NIV)

**God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.**

☆ *Think About It* ☆

Think about 1 Timothy 2:4, then write down a prayer regarding it.



## Emmanuel's Story

Life was hard for Emmanuel as a kid growing up in the Dominican Republic. His dad was not around and his mom was addicted to drugs. The family lived on the streets.

One day an older lady took interest in Emmanuel. She showed him love and told him about Jesus. As a teenager, Emmanuel came to know Jesus Christ as his savior.

Like most boys in the Dominican, Emmanuel loved playing baseball. He was a talented athlete and a baseball scout signed him to play third base for one of the Major League baseball academy teams. His childhood dream was fulfilled when Emmanuel was invited to spring training in Florida to try out for that major league team. He and his wife moved to Florida so he could play baseball.

But then Emmanuel was cut from the team. Unlike most former players from the Dominican, Emmanuel decided to return to his home country. He knew how hard life could be for young boys there, so he started a church that especially

helped young men who played baseball but never made it to the major leagues.

One day missionary Bill Stothers asked Emmanuel to be a chaplain at some of the baseball academies. Now Emmanuel works full time sharing the Good News of Jesus with players, coaches and staff in the academies and at ballparks on Sundays. He enjoys advising and guiding young men, and telling them about the love of Jesus Christ, just like that older lady did—the one who shared Jesus with him when he was a boy. ■

(Stories written by Bill Stothers with Cindy Kelly)



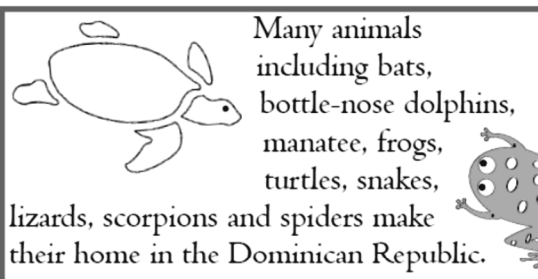
*Bill Stothers and Emmanuel*



# Dominican Republic

**Capital city:** Santo Domingo  
**Main language:** Spanish  
**Main religion:** Roman Catholic

## Did you know?



One city in the DR, San Pedro de Macoris, produces more professional baseball players than any other town in the world.



Larimar is a semi-precious stone found **ONLY** in the DR. The color of blue in the stone varies from deep sky blue to blue green.

The Dominican Republic is one of the top sugar producers in the world. It also exports cocoa, and "winter vegetables" - crops that can't be grown in North America during winter.



The emblem on the country's flag shows an open Bible, a cross, four Dominican flags and two spears. The flag was adopted in 1844.



## TO DO:

Cross out every other letter starting with T to find a special message.

G T O I D E R U E P I H G  
 I N Q S L O S V W E Y R  
 K T D H A E J N S A H T  
 R I C O T N F S

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Answer (hold up to a mirror): (p29ju 4X:89)  
 Goo us!luz ova, tps us!poue.



Missionaries Bill and Pricilla Stothers. Bill leads a team of 13 chaplains.

## Dominican Republic

Emmanuel and the other chaplains for 30 Major League baseball academies and 6 winter league teams.

