

Chapel Project - Dominican Republic

Mission

Help evangelical congregations in the Dominican Republic lacking the required financial resources to build a chapel.

- Partnership between American group and Dominican church.
- Dominican congregation provides approximately 10% of the total chapel cost.
- American group provides money for construction materials (~12,500) and a construction/evangelism team of approximately 21 members.

About Dominican Republic

- Eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola (in the Caribbean), between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean. Haiti occupies the other one-third of island.
- Little more than 2 times size of New Hampshire
- \$8,900 per capita income (2010 estimate)
- 13.3% unemployment (2010 estimate)
- 42.2 % of population below poverty line (2004)
- 95% Roman Catholic

(source: CIA World Factbook)

Site Selection Factors

- Dominican church is responsible for acquiring land, obtaining building permits, and providing labor for foundation
- Churches requesting assistance are evaluated by the Chapel Project. Factors considered in evaluation include:
 - Has land and can put in the foundation
 - Vision for planting new churches
 - Vibrant children ministry
 - Financial resources for maintaining a new building

2011 Site Evaluation

- Chapel Project team of 6 individuals spent a week in November, 2011 in the Dominican Republic
- Team saw the results of God at work in the Dominican Republic
- All the Pastors of the 16 churches visited had completed Dynamic Church Planting International's church planting training
- Team saw wide range of sites, from those ready for immediate construction to new church plants just getting started

Summary of Some of Sites Visited

- Salcedo
- Los Llanos de Gurabo
- La Cienga
- Santiago
- Los Higos
- Tamboril

Salcedo



- Pastors – Louis and Maria Reynoso
- Started as cell group in 2006

Salcedo



- Have 40 church members
- Meet on porch and room of rented house

Salcedo



- Work with 100 children in summer
- Also train Pastors and lay leaders in the area

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Salcedo



- Prayed about land when appointment was made to meet with us
- Received donation for land and completed acquisition in 6 weeks

Los Llanos de Gurabo



- Pastor Dutan Astremont
- Haitian church plant

Los Llanos de Gurabo



- Church has been meeting for 4 months
- Mother church pays rent on room where meeting

Los Llanos de Gurabo



- Current location has space for 20
- Most Haitians in area are women with small children
- Average wages for Haitians (construction) is \$12/day

La Cienga



- Pastor El Pidio Rivera Cedeno
- Church started 3 years ago
- Has one daughter church

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La Cienga



- Church has 110 members
- Presently meeting in garage, spilling into street
- Garage has metal roof with many holes

La Cienga



- Church has acquired land but still owes \$2300 to church members

Santiago

- Pastor Jose Gomera Alcantara
- Rent two locations – one for children and one for services
- Church is 5 years old, has 85 in attendance



Santiago



- Land donated by Pastor
- Land slopes and will require expensive foundation (ideal for basement which would double it's cost)
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Los Higos

- Pastor Andrea Lava Pinales
- Church started 5 years ago
- 60 adults, 40 children
- One daughter church
- Planning another church plant in 2012



Los Higos



- Current building built using donated wood from chicken house
- Will not last long due to termites

Tamboril



- Pastor Rafael Dominguez Capellan
- Associate Pastor at mother church and school teacher in afternoon

Tamboril



- Cell group meeting on upstairs porch
- Have 22 in attendance
- Have outgrown porch – need larger space

Tamboril



- Evaluating lot available nearby
- Owned by Dominican church planter now living in Atlanta

What's Next

- Several sites still need to be evaluated on the Haitian border
- The Chapel Project should be ready to begin construction in the Dominican Republic around February, 2012
- Three sites are ready to schedule chapel construction
- Now need American teams to supply funds and construction team

In the Future

- Move towards the Haitian border and into Haiti
- DCPI trainer we worked with in Dominican Republic stated there are over 500 new church plants in Haiti, many needing buildings
- If funds available for construction materials, coordinate Dominican churches sending teams to build chapels in Haiti