

Josue Raimundo's Report on the Ministry in the Hispaniola  
Proposal for missionary Project

I have been involved in Haiti relief efforts since February 9th, 2010. I have been working in conjunction to IBSH (Baptist Churches in Service to Haiti), an organization formed with trusted sister churches in the Dominican Republic, and with Faith Bible Church of Sharpsburg in Georgia. Faith Bible Church and our sister churches in FIRE (Fellowship of Independent Reformed Evangelicals) have been instrumental in the use and distribution of aid in Haiti.

After a trip to Haiti and Dominican Republic, David Meade (Faith Bible Church), Dan Jarms and Jack Hancock (Faith Bible Church of Spokane, WA., and not related to each other), and I decided to evaluate the work in Haiti and determine the course to follow. Without getting into the discussion, just let me give the conclusions and what we have been doing since then.

Conclusion # 1 – Haiti is a bottomless pit and giving aid to meet a need here and there is not going to bring the transformation of the Gospel to this dark nation. Corruption is all over the place and, thank God, I have been able to spot some of the crooks that come to us for help (I speak the language enough to understand and I have lived and worked there as well, so I know the culture). The money given to us has not been wasted in corruption.

Conclusion # 2 – Our efforts must be redirected into training a group of men who are not seeking personal gain, but want to see the kingdom of Christ extended in Haiti and the DR. We cannot see training in Haiti separated from training in the Dominican Republic. When it comes to the expansion of the Kingdom, we need to see the island of the Hispaniola as one unit.

Conclusion # 3 – We set out to identify a group of men that would be trained and equipped to begin a missionary push in the island.

What has happened since those meetings took place?

First: In our FIRE conference, David Meade gave a report of all the money we have received and how it has been spent. It was a clean report and shows that we have been very efficient in the distribution of aid and in seeking those men to be trained. The donations have been used according to plan. I have, personally, verified that. I have traveled to Haiti-DR 8 times since February.

Second: We have started, in conjunction to Carey University Outreach, formal training of 35 men in the Dominican Republic. A person who loves the Lord and the vision we have, has supplied for my personal expenses. (We have not used Haiti funds to supply our expenses.) This individual has also supplied to help buy computers well equipped for us to have an international, live virtual classroom. This class has been in session since June. Because of this, I have been able to cover from Genesis to the major prophets with them. We meet every Monday night from 7:30 to 9:30 by Skype. I also meet with them on all of my trips. Even my wife and daughter went in to sit in on the class when they were in the DR for a wedding. We have seen growth in these men. Some of the pastors tell me of the changes taking place in the individuals, their homes and their local churches.

Third: We have been looking into a few Haitians living in the Dominican Republic to be able to train them. We just had a conference with Pastors of the Caribbean in which most

of the attendants were Haitians living in the DR. One of the men that I am now discipling is going to meet with them and teach what he is learning from me. These men come from three different places in the northern part of the Dominican Republic. If you have a map, check out Puerto Plata and surrounding area.

Pastors Dan Jarms, Florent Varak and our brother in Christ Thomas Herrera (from Pastors of the Caribbean) also had a terrific opportunity in Cap Haitienne. The report I have is that there is a group of men who want to be trained there as well. For those Haitians getting training, we will need to do it on a conference basis rather than on a weekly basis, as I have been doing so far with the Dominican brothers. I believe that, as we train Haitian men in the DR, we may form a small band of missionaries to go to strategic places in Haiti to train others there. All the issues with Haiti bring a lot of challenges to the work there.

Fourth: A good man, pastor in Santiago, has asked for training. I will meet once a week with him and pastors from San Francisco and Cotui through Skype. The pastors from San Fran and cotui will travel to Santiago to meet with us in order to be formally trained. We pray that the Lord will provide a computer for them. (See a map of the Dominican Republic). One huge advantage we have in the Dominican Republic is fast internet. This gives us a more consistent training than doing the conferences in Haiti. Also, because of fast internet, we can meet with several groups of people in different places, even at the same time, if necessary.

Fifth: I am able to work with a full seminary program operating through Carey University. Besides me, we also have an adjunct professor, Dan Jarms, who can teach from Spokane, as well as Florent Varak, from France. We are also finalizing the accreditation of one other teacher from the Dominican Republic to be part of the "Virtual Faculty." In other words, the Lord is opening a huge door for training men both in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Sixth: As I said, this is already a running program. This work has started. I wanted ten men (Dan Jarms and I talked about that the first time we went together to Haiti-DR), but I have had four churches sending 35 men every Monday. The additional prospects in Santiago and Puerto Plata are that we may start with 10 more meeting with us through the internet, plus for the group of Haitians one of the ones already being trained will be overseeing the Haitian pastors' training.

Seventh: We have official requests to do the same in Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela. I have a lot on my lap, and pending full-time support for our family, I am evaluating what to do in with all these open doors.

Eighth: We have been provided with a vehicle that we can use for our travels in Dominican Republic and Haiti. It was donated and will save us a lot of money and time.

As a principle, 2 Timothy 2:2 is central in the training process. As a matter of fact, each person involved in training, at this point, needs to find another person or a small group of people to whom they will teach what they are learning. Right now, almost 80% of the students in the DR are teaching others. Multiplication is taking place.

In conclusion: After the evaluation David Meade, Jack Hancock, Dan Jarms and I had, and after consulting with some of the trusted pastors in the DR, we concluded that the best use of our resources to help Haiti and the DR (they go together) was to invest in training men. Since then, we have done that and we see the Lord answering our prayers by giving us the grace to fulfill the goals we set out in those meetings. All involved see that this is the way to go.

In His Service,

Josue Raimundo

January 12, 2011 Update:

This is the report I prepared right after our trip to Dr-Haiti. During this trip, Pastors of the Caribbean had conferences in Haiti (Cap Haitienne) and the Dominican Republic (La Vega), where the Lord gave us the opportunity to evaluate some men. From that group, I have been able to start training with two groups of men in the province of Santiago. Pastor Eric Gomez will have a small group of men, including pastors from two other cities (Cotui and San Francisco). Tomás Toribio, who has been with us in Haiti and brought a good group of Haitian and Dominican pastors, has already started the program with me (we covered Genesis and Exodus in our Bible survey class). Tomás, after our class, goes to meet with a small group of those he took to the conference, and teaches them what he is learning with me.

We are committed to a group of 35 in Santo Domingo, two groups in Santiago. We look to the point in which we can start sending some of our Haitian students to help us with the Haitians in Haiti.

At this point we need financial support to keep me free to dedicate myself to continue the teaching through Skype and traveling to the DR-Haiti every 8 weeks so that I can spend time with the students, interview their pastors and make sure that they are becoming more like Christ as they learn. I also need to see how to respond to the requests from other countries.

The central point of this update is to highlight that we have been taking action according to the plans and intentions we have agreed. This is very important, since it points to a unity in the plan of men I respect and love. I am glad I can count on the leaders of Faith Bible Church of Spokane and Faith Bible Church in Atlanta, as well as our local church.

We know that the best place for us to be is here in order to be able to accomplish the training in those countries. Our goal is to have an established team of trainers in Haiti and the Dominican Republic by 2015... This means that they will be fully equipped to help pastors and leaders of other churches to equip their own. For those who want to pursue academic education, we will be able to provide up to a Masters Degree program, fully accredited in the US, Canada and England. This is a very important part of our training, since the academic standards in many countries are now higher and higher education is the norm.

Our proposal is very simple: We need to raise about \$80,000.00 a year to carry out this ministry without interruption. We already have around \$40,000.00, so we are looking at having to raise \$40,000.00 more. That includes my salary, traveling expenses and the buying of equipment as needed (basically computers equipped with built-in cameras and internet ready). In some cases, we may need to pay for a broadband connection for one of the groups (so far, we have not needed to do that).

Thanks for your participation with us in this ministry.

Josue Raimundo