



The Franklin Family
*Go, stand and speak in the temple
to the people all the words of this life. Acts 5:20*

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History of the Bible Baptist Church in Don Pedro

The first believers in Don Pedro, D.R. were baptized the first week of June 2009, six months before the earthquake in Port au Prince. Bro. Dial and I began our friendship earlier that year when he came into the church I was pastoring and expressed a desire to learn more about the Bible. I was hesitant at first because I did not know much about the Haitian culture, but that subsided the more we conversed in Spanish. Weekly meetings were established on Tuesday afternoons to teach basic doctrine and Baptist Ecclesiology classes. Using the Bible, we began writing the Articles of Faith in Creole. Things progressed outside the classroom and a mission was organized under our church in Don Pedro after 30 Haitians accepted Christ within the first 8 months. Bro. Dial had come to the Dominican years before, to escape a lot of political turmoil from the Baby Doc and Aristide dictatorships which had fostered a culture of fear, oppression, and persecution in Haiti. When the earthquake happened in January of 2010 our relationship grew even more when Bro. Dial volunteered to go with me back into Haiti to assist the Baptist Churches that had been affected in and around the capital that missionaries of years gone by had established. On our long trips into Port au Prince (well over 100) to start and build the church in Croix des Bouquet, Bro. Dial and I saw many receive Christ and have more stories of God's providential blessings than can be shared here. In short, we know the Lord brought us together and have had numerous "close calls" including being imprisoned together in Haiti for refusing to use church funds to pay corrupt government officials. Despite the incredible physical and spiritual obstacles during this time both of our congregations in the D.R. grew. In 2015 after having pastored the church in Tamboril for more than seven years and with the Lords leading, we knew it was time for the church to have a national pastor. With the difficulty of buying property in the Dominican we decided to merge the church in Tamboril and the mission in Don Pedro at a new location across from a property our association had previously purchased. With our close relationship with Pastor Dial, his faithful service through the trials and tribulations of Haiti, his teachable spirit and leadership ability, it was an obvious decision. In October of 2016 we knew we needed to build, as the rented church facility was already over capacity. We set a goal to gather \$58,000 for materials which was approximately half of what we thought it would take to build a building that could seat 300. In November of 2017 we began working on the papers from various government agencies and during that time the city came in and paved the road right in front of the property. That doubled the value of what we had purchased - overnight. By 2020 the church established its first mission on a farm in Canca de la Piedra. Additionally, we contracted Eng. Esteban Gonzalez to draw up plans; however, Covid hit and later that year the city asked us to resubmit the plans as they wanted us to add more parking. We are grateful for Esteban as he agreed to reduce his normal fee so the men of the church could help us build. In 2021 the church still lacked the funds to begin; however, the mission in Las Palomas was established and Regina and I started another church with Pastor Oscar and Melissa Pedroza in Gurabo. In February of 2022 the churches building fund went over \$58,000 for the first time and we immediately began clearing, filling, and raising the property level. That summer we returned to raise money for the building and God blessed and we were able to raise an additional \$45,000. By March of 2023 the roof had been erected over the building and in May of 2023 the concrete floors were poured. However, we still had quite a way to go, so we returned once more in the summer of 2023 and worked on raising funds for the security bars, parking lot, lights and fans and again God blessed. That leads to today and our plans for the inauguration June 2nd.



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