



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

www.DR4Christ.com

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Why the Dominican Republic?



1. **The island of Hispaniola is the most populated island in the Caribbean.** There are more than 11 million people that live in over 1,200 municipal districts in the D.R. These districts consist of multiple towns and villages and less than .05% of them have a Baptist church. In addition, there are more than 11 million people that live just across the border in Haiti. Since responding to the needs of our sister country during the

earthquake in 2010, Haitian immigration continues to boom in the D.R. because Haiti is politically unstable, badly developed and one of poorest countries in the world. Missionaries and national leaders are needed to share the gospel, disciple and plant churches wherever access to sound doctrine is limited. 2. **New and existing churches need living examples that emphasize quality over quantity.** Despite the growing economy, Dominicans face significant poverty, especially in rural and underserved urban areas. Nearly 25% of inhabitants live below the poverty line and Haitians far below that. Church planting amongst the poor is not just building a physical structure, it is about building relationships, establishing trust, and meeting the spiritual needs of the community. People were created by God to create, and the ministries of the church should lead to spiritual victory and not dependency. Only 52% of Dominicans complete the 8th grade and less than 20% graduate from high school. Less than 30% of Haitians make it to the 6th grade. This, along with island social culture and excessive immigration into the U.S. makes training pastors and church leaders difficult. Experienced couples from the U.S. are needed to voluntarily pour their lives out into leaders, helping them to develop skills to build strong, healthy, self-sustaining churches that can serve their communities for years to come. 3. **Both Dominicans and Haitians need a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.**



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