**Dominican Republic Debrief**

**Primary Contact**: Pastor Angel Miguel Castillo
 Pastor Castillo is pastor of Fundamental Baptist Church in Santo Domingo. He is connected to all the pertinent ministry opportunities in the DR.

**Areas of Potential Opportunities**

1. Southeast (Santo Domingo)

**Fundamental Baptist Church** – Pastor Angel Miguel Castillo

Pastor Training – Each month he holds a training for pastors. There are three sessions of 45 minutes each. While we were there he brought in a professor of hermeneutics that was solid in his instruction.

Opportunity: 1) Provide money for hosting event (cost is $2000/mo.); 2) Provide resources and trainers; he desires 150 copies of Nunez’s Bible Doctrine book and Sanchez’s Hacia Lemeta book for the pastors

Haitian Orphanage – Frequently Pastor Castillo travels and ministers to an orphanage and pastors in Haiti.

 Opportunity: Provide materials for orphanage and funds for food for those along the way

Prayer Requests:
1) Pray for finances as the great need of others often makes it hard to provide personally
2) Pray for the pastors that attend the pastors training to grow and desire to minister in the harder places in the south of DR
3) Pray for perseverance and strength as age is taking its toll on body and energy

**Iglesia Biblica del Señor Jesucristo** – Pastor Sugel Michelén; (note: this is Pastor Castillo’s sending church)

Radio Broadcast – Entendiendo los Tiempos is a broadcast from a studio from the church that reaches roughly 3 million people around the world. One notable thing that they have done is translate and release much content by Nancy DeMoss.

Opportunity: Provide RMM Resources for them to translate and use

9 Marks Weekender – Their church will be hosting a 9 Marks Weekender in September based off Mark Dever’s material to instruct and show DR pastors how a biblical church functions. They have a passion to preserve ecclesiastical structure of the church. Many look at 9 Marks and think, “they are gringos and their model can’t work here” so this is so put 9 Marks in a DR context.

Opportunity: 1) Provide 9 Marks books; 2) provide subsidy money for pastors to attend

Prayer Requests:
1) Pray for financial assistance for their church. For the first time in many years financially struggling to make ends meet
2) Pray for an increase in discipleship in the church and for people to get more deeply connected
3) Pray for pastors to have a missional and sending mindset as this is rare in the DR.

**International Baptist Church** – Pastor Miguel Nunez

Por Su Causa Conference – This is an annual conference that gives gospel centered and biblical content to pastors/teachers/laypersons. For example, Steve Lawson will be one of the primary speakers this September. It is $40/person.

 Opportunity: Provide participant subsidy

Pastor College – There is an institute (Integrity and Wisdom) for training but it is more geared toward laypersons. The Pastors College would be more focused on those entering the ministry. It is still in planning phase but God willing, the expected date for it’s start-up is in late 2018. This is likely where in-depth, long-term church planter partnership would be started.

Opportunity: Provide student sponsorship to those that are of high potential in I&S. One candidate that Mateo McGhee has identified is Leo and they will be having a meeting to discuss what that might look like.

Missions – Enrique Crespo is their pastor of outreach and has many opportunities that we could get involved in when bringing a team.

 Opportunity: Provide a team and investigate needed areas of ministry in Santo Domingo

Prayer Requests:
1) Pray for their staff and team as they do some restructuring as they are beginning new ministries
2) Pray for direction and wisdom in developing and building the Pastor’s College
3) Pray for discernment in how to effectively reach the DR while also reaching Latin America and others that are using the DR as a theological training hub.

 **Iglesia Bautista Ozama** – Pastor Otto Sanchez

Seminary – This seminary has connections with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in the U.S. They have started this model in Puerto Rico. It is a two-year program with 12 courses. They are endeavoring to begin a new program called the School of Fervency. This is for those who cannot travel, have very little education, and desire to grow in areas of doctrine, worship, and community.

Opportunity: 1) Provide funds for new program; 2) Provide subsidy for music school students

 Prayer Requests:
 1) Pray for the funding and development of the new program
 2) Pray for the people in the church and pastors in Santo Domingo to be more missional-minded
 3) Pray for the music school and the increase of doctrinally solid worship leaders throughout the DR

1. North (Santiago)

**Iglesia Bautista de la Gracia** – Pastor Oscar Arocha

Seminary – At their church they have a grade school and a seminary. The seminary currently serves 150 students. These students are from many countries around the world. It is an intensive 1 year program where they reside onsite. The cost is $4000. They use 4 books that are theologically sound (Grudem, Nichols, etc.). It was noted that many students learn but then return to their context with no support and are ineffective.

Opportunity: 1) Provide financial assistance for studies; 2) Support pastor as they leave school and return to plant church/ministry

Orphanage – Mrs. Arocha oversees an orphanage that hosts 98 children. We were told that 20-30% were true orphans but that all the children attained were through a court order. This means that it is meeting a real need rather than causing broken families. They teach bible study three times per day. They desire to build a boys building and hostel with 17 rooms for teams that come to help.

Opportunity: 1) Provide a person who could commit to teach English for 1 year stints; 2) Provide financial resources and teams for the building projects; 3) Provide materials for the orphan children

 Prayer Requests:
 1) Pray for the students of the seminary who are far away from home and families
 2) Pray for the orphanage as they deal with the government and courts
 3) Pray for the building of the boys building and hostel, that it might grow their impact

1. South (Azua)

Housing Project – Orphan’s Heart is involved in a housing project lead by Ceasar Chahin for the very poor people who live in the mountains in the south part of the DR. The project is to build 100 homes which surrounds a church and community center. They have VBS, a small medical clinic, and child sponsorship. There are two staff onsite: a health care worker and a pastor, Jose. There is an apartment in Allas for teams to stay. The overall goal is to empower this generation with the gospel.

Opportunity: 1) Provide team for building, VBS, and clinic; 2) Provide finances for the building project

Church – This church in Los Toros is a recent church plant by three pastors (Eugenio, Mariano, Wander). These three grew up together, introduced to good theology through cassette tapes of Sugel Michelen, and went to I&S. Because there was no church in the south with good theology, they were counseled to plant one so that is what they have done. The goal is for this to be a church but also be the first training center for those pastors in the south who cannot go to the training in the capitol. It has a total cost of $63K and they have $30K raised. The money that we sent last year went toward the window and door bars.

Opportunity: 1) Provide funding for building the church; 2) provide team of teachers to do pastor training for southern pastors

Prayer Requests:
1) Pray for the housing project as it is young and while there is great vision, God’s will must be sought
2) Pray for the pastors as they are working with the church plant and also ministering in a neighboring city so it splits their time and energy.
3) Pray for the southern pastors who are without resources and struggle in many areas of ministry

Forward Movement Proposal:

1. Plan a trip for March Break 2018 consisting of youth/parents and select others. The team would work with the Orphan’s Heart housing project, building in the morning and gospel sharing/VBS in the afternoon. The select others would simultaneously train the pastors in the south at Los Toros’s church.
2. Partner with the pastors at the Los Toros church financially for building and ministry development
3. Continue support for Leo at I&S and keep in contact for further commitments with potential pastor/church planters
4. Fund the books for the pastor training with Pastor Castillo and possibly 9 Marks with theological famine relief.
5. Investigate to see if there is a college student or other who could teach English for a year at Pastor Arocha’s orphanage