



## Community Overview: **Haina, Dominican Republic**

<b>Date started:</b>	June 2009
<b>Community leader:</b>	Pastor Bronny Novas
<b>Mission team involved:</b>	Woodside Church (Yardley, PA)
<b>Community overview:</b>	Haina is an urban town in the San Cristobal province, southwest of Santo Domingo. It's a mixed community with middle class and extremely poor residents living next to one another.
<b>Project components:</b>	12,000 square foot, two-story church/education complex

**Project overview:** Pastor Bronny is a longtime friend and partner with Foundation for Peace, helping on many building projects and at the FFP house in Santo Domingo. When Pastor Bronny's congregation had outgrown their 400-sq. ft. rented church, he turned to FFP for help.

In 2009, construction of a church/ education/medical complex began with support from Woodside Church in Yardley, PA. This multi-year project has been one of FFP's largest church construction projects to date.

From the start God demonstrated His protection and provision of this project in many ways including: allowing a last-minute acquisition of a much larger piece of land, "coincidentally" arranging a meeting with an engineer who volunteered his heavy equipment to level the site and dig footers (saving mission teams years of digging!) and revealing construction-grade sand (used to make concrete) in one of the footings (saving the project thousands of dollars).

While FFP projects are typically funded primarily by mission teams, the Haina congregation has access to resources poorer communities don't. Because of the creative and consistent fundraising efforts of Pastor Bronny and his congregation, they have tackled several major construction hurdles on their own—like pouring a roof for the first floor, allowing progress to continue moving forward.

***Pictures:** (top) Removing a very large tree from the site. (center) Working hand in hand to build the wall. (bottom) Working on the ground floor during the mission team's third year.*



### How has working "hand in hand" made a difference in Haina?

The project in Haina stands as a shining example of American and Dominican partners working together, hand in hand. Says Pastor Bronny, "For me FFP is a passion. Any time I can go to a project and use my skills my spirit rejoices. I give thanks to God for everything I can do to help."

The church stands as a beacon in the community. Joint American/Dominican vacation Bible school activities, medical clinics and evangelism have brought new people to the church. Many inquirers have become members and the congregation of 50 (in 2009) has grown to over 300.



*Pastor Bronny and Kristin Hamner discuss plans to finish the second floor.*