



THE DOMINICAN DEVELOPMENT GROUP

c/o DaySpring • P.O. Box 661 • Ellenton, FL 34222

tel: 941-776-1018 • fax: 941-776-2678

www. Dominicandevelopmentgroup.org • DDGStevens@aol.com

2011 Dominican Mission Clearwater Deanery

Joint VBS-Construction Team: July 23-31, 2011

Overview of the 2011 DR Mission: In 2011 the Clearwater Deanery will again send the Vacation Bible School and the Construction DR Mission teams to the DR the same week in July. The “stretch goal” for the 2011 Construction team is to finish the second floor classrooms so that the La Redención School can use the entire second floor beginning in September 2011. As always, the VBS team will work with leaders at Jesús Peregrino to carry out Vacation Bible School for some 200 to 300 children in Batey Central on the outskirts of Barahona.

The La Redención Project. Over the past six years in a joint effort the Clearwater Deanery, the DR Diocese, and All Saints in Hilton Head, SC have finished the first floor sanctuary and classrooms of La Redención, and “closed in” the second floor. In 2008 they built the pews and altar furniture, in 2009 they built the classroom furniture, and in 2010 they finished the room on the second floor. It is estimated that it will take \$50,600 to finish the classrooms so that they can begin to be used in September. To do so will require the combined efforts of the DR Diocese, All Saints, Hilton Head, and the Clearwater Deanery. Bishop Holguín says “you do what you can from there and we will do what we can from here, and by faith we will finish La Redención.”



The 2010 Construction Team working on second floor roof with team leader Renee Liles



VBS'ers Gathered at Assembly.

VBS 2011. The 2011 Clearwater VBS team will work with the children of Jesús Peregrino, La Redención’s “mother” church. The VBS team will support Jesús Peregrino parishioners in preparations for teaching, crafts, and PE, with a lunch at midday. As usual, classes will be held daily from 9am to 4pm, and divided into morning sessions for younger children and afternoon sessions for older children. Average daily attendance in 2010 was around 225 so it was a busy time. Professor Vickie Hall of St. Pete College with Diane Urwiller will again serve as VBS team leaders. The VBS team hopes to collect a majority of the supplies from deanery churches, and then carry them down with them in their luggage.

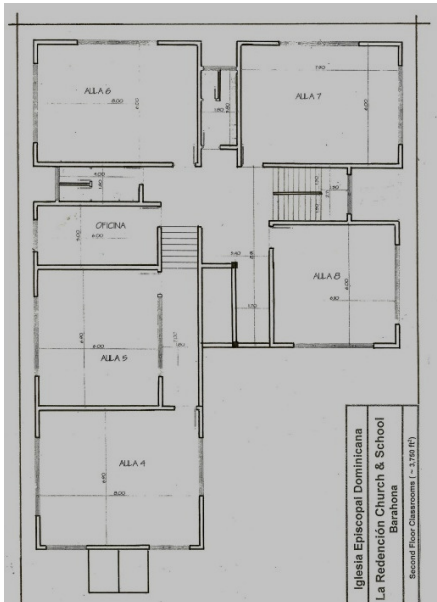
History of La Redención. In response to a challenge several years ago to continue growing by starting two services at Jesús Peregrino, church leaders (the first Episcopal Church in Barahona) sent a few parishioners to plant a new mission in a tiny rented storefront in the central part of Barahona. Named La Redención, the mission has greatly expanded its membership with Sunday attendance varying between 40 and 50 persons. In January 2010 La Redención began an afternoon “Study Hall” with 10 students in its first floor school classrooms. Study Hall in the DR is a formal program with teacher assisted learning. Preschool classes at La Redención School began in September 2010. La Redención holds a midweek Bible study each Wednesday, as well as other services during the week. Financially, mission La Redención is partially supported by the DR Diocese with the young congregation covering some of its own expenses. Current priest Fr. Alfredo Romero was assigned as vicar to both Jesús Peregrino and La Redención in August 2010 when he was still a transitional deacon.



VBS Co-leaders Vickie Hall and Diane Urwiler with Trevor Kimpton

With visionary foresight even before the founding of La Redención the Diocese purchased the 600 m² (6,455 ft²) lot at a good price. The dream, now being realized, was to build a two-story church and primary school on this tract of land to serve both the spiritual and educational needs of the people of Barahona. Hilda García, a building contractor and active parishioner, is overseeing the construction.

The people see La Redención as a church with a great future. La Redención’s “target” population is the Barahona middle class for it is located in a middle class neighborhood in the central area of the city. Episcopan, the little bakery associated with Jesús Peregrino, and which the Deanery helped start, sells bread and cakes in the area under the stairwell going up to the future second floor.



Floor plan: second floor La Redención

History of Jesús Peregrino. Barahona (pop. 80,000) is the capital of its Province. It is located 120 miles west of Santo Domingo along a well paved road. Jesús Peregrino (Jesus the Pilgrim) was founded in a rented storefront in December 1994. Seven persons attended Morning Prayer that day. It has grown steadily since. Today, with active local leadership, and with help from many mission minded friends abroad, Jesús Peregrino has its own two story church (which Clearwater helped build) where on average 100-plus persons attend on a given Sunday. It also sponsors Jesús Peregrino day school where over 100 students receive a preschool through early primary grade education.

Jesús Peregrino is located in the Batey Central of Barahona, a very poor, working class group of neighborhoods of some 20,000 persons on the edge of the city. Many sugar cane workers live in the neighborhoods of Batey Central, and the principal sugar mill of the region is located there. Unemployment is especially high, probably over 60%. Although locally referred to as separate from Barahona, Batey Central is connected by bus and public car to the city. Jesús Peregrino plays a major role in working to help meet the physical, social and spiritual needs of Batey Central residents, and is the mother congregation for the Episcopal Church in this region.

Note: If you want to participate on the July 23-31 team, please contact Renee Liles, Vickie Hall, or Chuck Gargola at the numbers below. You may contribute to the La Redención project through your local church or by sending contributions to the Dominican Development Group, c/o DaySpring, P.O. Box 661, Ellenton, FL 34222.

For further information contact:

Renee Liles at 727-796-5514; reneeliles@holymtrinityclw.org
or

Vickie Hall at 727-452-5287; labiqui@gmail.com
or

Chuck Gargola at 727-430-4011, cgargola@tampabay.rr.com
or

Dr. Robert Stevens at 941-776-1018; ddgstevens@aol.com



Ready to Finish: La Redención’s 2nd Floor Classrooms