



# THE DOMINICAN DEVELOPMENT GROUP

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## Clearwater Deanery 2012 San Bernabé, Pizarrete Joint VBS-Construction Team: July 21-28



*Entrance to San Bernabé*

Construction team members will tie the reinforcing steel rebar for the new roof over the old warehouse so that the new flat roof can be poured. Previously the diocese will have torn down the old roof and poured the footers and columns that will support the roof. This will form a church building (sanctuary and altar area) of approximately 900 ft<sup>2</sup> plus the office & sacristy of approximately 165 ft<sup>2</sup>.

In future years the walls will be opened up for windows and doors, the floor will be raised and an altar built so as to convert the old warehouse into a proper church. The lean-to side rooms built against the front wall and side of the warehouse will be torn down, and the old rice mill office will be converted into the church office and sacristy. A second floor could eventually be added San Bernabé.

**Background:** In the late 1990's the episcopal priest at La Transfiguración in Baní started visiting the rural village of Pizarrete just north of and on an access road from the main four-lane highway going from Santo Domingo to Baní. At first they met under the shade of a tree. Now they meet in the little church shown below. Pizarrete is about 50 minutes out of Santo Domingo by car.



*Bishop Holguín in front of old rice mill & warehouse.*

The 2012 Clearwater Deanery DR Mission Team will again include Vacation Bible School and construction. VBS team members will work with senior warden Altagracia Puello and others from San Bernabé, holding the VBS in the nearby public school. Over the last few years 90 to 100 students have generally attended VBS with a church from Virginia that cannot return this year.



*Children at colegio San Bernabé*

A few years back the DR Diocese purchased an approximately 41,000 ft<sup>2</sup> lot (~3,800 m<sup>2</sup>) which would serve as the future home for San Bernabé. The lot contains a small four-room house, a large enclosed shed which once served as a warehouse with a gasoline powered rice mill, and a small little building on

the edge of the road which is currently rented out to sell lottery tickets. Most of the lot is covered by concrete a slab that could serve in the future as a base for a basketball court. The lot has water lines already installed, a cistern and a septic tank. The lot and the structures on it cost approximately \$80,000.



*Inside the old warehouse.*

termites – thus the need for a concrete roof. San Bernabé preschool (maternal & kinder) has 25 students. It meets in the little house on the property and provides a valuable service to the community. Rooms could be added to the house so as to expand the school. In the future a full range school could be built on the property and the present school converted into a vicarage for a resident priest.



*The San Bernabé house/preschool*



*San Bernabé's present church*

**Other details:** The 2012 Clearwater team will stay in Hotel Caribani in nearby city of Baní, the provincial capital and about 20 minutes from Pazarrete. The Rev. Milquella Mendoza is priest in charge of San Bernabé as well as the rural congregations San Antonio de Padua, Carretón, El Santo Nombre, Catalina, and La Transfiguración church and school in Baní where she lives with her family in the diocesan owned vicarage. Worship services at San Bernabé are held on Saturdays at 5PM. Milquella also serves as rector of the San Bernabé and San Antonio de Padua preschools.

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**Note:** If you want to participate on the July 21-28 team please contact Renee Liles, Vickie Hall, or Chuck Gargola at the numbers below. You may contribute to the San Bernabé project through your local church or by sending contributions to the Dominican Development Group, c/o DaySpring, P.O. Box 661, Ellenton, FL 34222.

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or

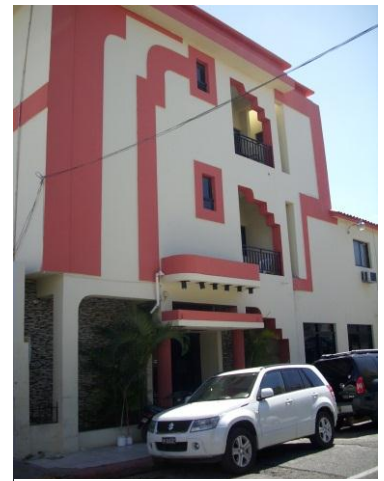
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*Hotel Caribani*