

## San Pablo Apóstol



*The exterior of Iglesia Episcopal San Pablo Apóstol*

Updated August 14, 2015

### **Church History:**

The center of the town of Jimani lies roughly 3 miles from the Haitian border, and the town serves as the southern-most official border crossing between the two countries. Dajabón is the other official crossing and it lies in the northern end of the island. The Episcopal Church's involvement in the Jimani area began in 2004 when a flash flood wiped out hundreds of homes and killed between two and three thousand people. In response to this tragedy, the Rt. Rev. Julio C. Holguín, the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic, put a recent seminarian graduate, Father Jesús

Mosquea, in charge of the church's relief efforts. Since there was not an Episcopal presence in the town at the time, foodstuffs were sent in from Barahona, a larger city about an hour and a half away from Jimani. The Bishop was also interested in helping people emotionally and spiritually during this difficult time. Seeing the church's kindness, members of the community asked if an Episcopal mission could be established in their town. The Bishop asked Father Mosquea to stay in the town permanently.



*The interior of Iglesia Episcopal San Pablo Apóstol*

*San Pablo Apóstol* (St. Paul the Apostle) started off very small with Father Mosquea, Señora Eugenia Sena, and Señora Núñez, who were the principal leaders to organize the mission. Services were initially given in these two women's houses, and as the group

grew, services were given in Father Mosquea's house as well. Others who were vital in the church's initial growth were Doña Eugenia Sena, Doña Berenny Nova, Ángel, y Augusto. In 2006 they began construction of the church.

On the same grounds of the church are a dormitory, a cafeteria, and a school. The dormitory was built by The Episcopal Church in order to assist relief efforts in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake. Today the first floor holds a government-run medical clinic, and the second floor of the dormitory has 24 beds and is often used by mission teams. The cafeteria is currently being used to hold classes while they await the construction of the second floor of the school.



*Colegio Episcopal Profesora Laura Morrow*

### **School:**

After his first visit to Jimani shortly after the Haitian earthquake of 2010, David Morrow, President of the Dominican Development Group, saw a huge need for education in this area, especially as Haitian refugees continued to flood over the boarder. He was



moved to partner with our diocese and help finance a small school on the same grounds as *San Pablo Apóstol* church. Construction of the school began in 2011 and they were able to open for classes in September of 2012 with Father Nephtaly Désir as director. The school was named in honor of David's wife, Laura Morrow. Initially it was just a day care through kindergarten program with 69 children but has since grown to 150 students and goes up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Their hope is to grow with the students and add 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the coming academic year. In February of 2015, the Diocese of East Carolina sent down commercial playground equipment and then sent teams to assemble a playground for the school. They also constructed a basketball court, which was important for the school. The government will not recognize a school as an official educational institution if they do not have the required basketball court.



*The playground and basketball court for Colegio Episcopal Profesora Laura Morrow*

### **Church Today:**

#### **Community:**

In the town of Jimani, since it serves as one of two border crossings, there are a many people who are of Haitian origin. Specifically in the community of *St. Paul the Apostle*, however, the majority of the people would consider themselves Dominican. Father Nephtaly, the current priest, hopes to reach out and minister to more Haitians in the area. Some members of *St. Paul the Apostle* work as teachers and government-employees, but a grand majority are *chiripas*, those who do not have steady jobs but do any kind of work that comes their way, or sell food or crafts at the *Mal Paso*, the market along the edge of the Haitian border. The *Mal Paso* and trade with Haiti in general is the main economic activity of the town of Jimani.

#### **Ministry:**

The church has a women's group that meets on Mondays, bible study on Thursday and Saturday nights, and they continue doing services in people's homes on Friday or Saturday, depending on which day the Father works in the mission of nearby town, Boca de Cachon. These services are held in different people's houses every week.

#### **Future Plans:**

Previously, the church had been participating in a micro-finance program of the diocese. The program has currently been stopped for lack of finances but they are hoping to see it revived again. Many of the women who participated in the program did so in order to sell items at the *Mal Paso*. As previously mentioned, the community is also hoping to build a second floor of the school in the near future. Along with adding a new grade level to the school, they would also like to be able to provide breakfast for the

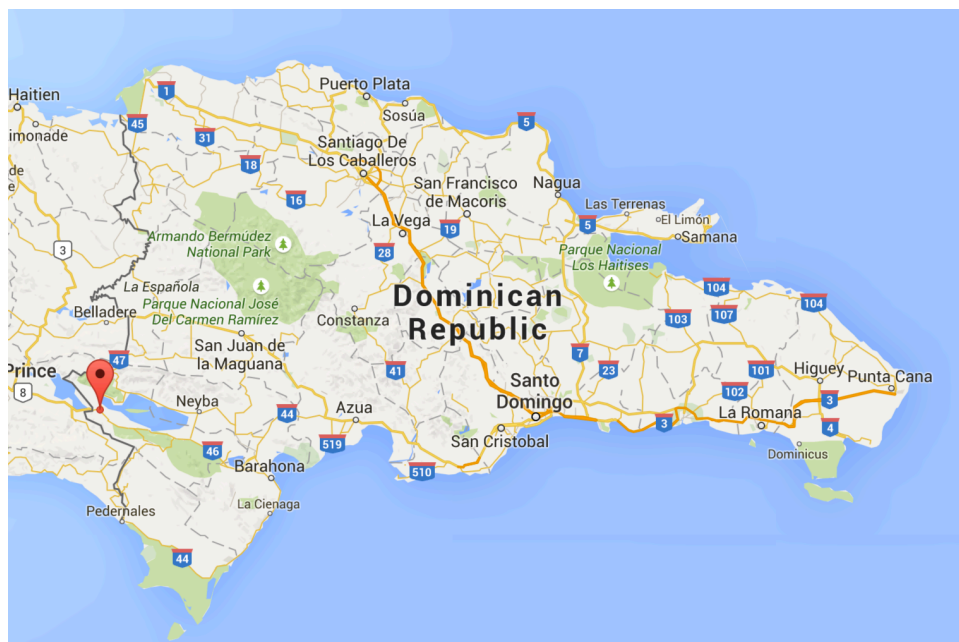
children next year. The Bishop also has plans to add a floor above the cafeteria to hold a parish hall, which they could use for school or church activities, or they could rent out to the community.

### Location

Latitude and longitude, traditional format: 18° 29' 41.0"N 71° 50' 45.0"

Latitude and longitude, decimal format: 18.494722N 71.845833W

Google Maps location: <https://goo.gl/maps/CP9zp>



### Bibliography

David Morrow, Interview by Emily Gibson via email.

Rev. Jesús Mosquea, Interview by Emily Gibson. Santo Domingo, April, 2015.

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Rev. Nephtaly Désir, Interview by Emily Gibson. Electronic record. Jimani, March 15, 2015.

“Ministry on the Haitian Border,” *Joint CD Newsletter*, March 2008.