

## San Tito



Updated: June 25, 2015

### **Mission History:**

In April of 2014, the government opened the first planned town in the country, Nueva (or new) Boca de Cachon. So what happened to the first Boca de Cachon? Boca de Cachon is a village in the southwest part of the Dominican Republic, close to the Haitian boarder. It also lies on the shore of Lake Enriquillo, the largest saltwater lake in the Caribbean. Boca de Cachon actually means “mouth of the breakwater” because the lake would beat against the shore of the town during tidal changes. Between 2004-2012, the lake doubled in size and continues to grow today, engulfing many farmlands and villages, including the old Boca de Cachon. The reasons for the lake’s growth are still being debated, but the constant flooding forced many in this village to abandon their homes and move to other cities. This motivated the government to build the new town approximately 10 miles away from their old home to accommodate these people. The

town opened in 2014 and while they are still constructing, currently there are around 600 houses. A few families remain in the old village as they wait for more houses to be constructed in the New Boca de Cachon.

Father Jesús Mosquea began going to the old Boca de Cachon from nearby city, Jimani, around 2006 to minister to the townspeople there. Luzmery Nova, who is currently the principal lay leader of the mission *San Tito* or *Saint Titus*, had been going to the Episcopal church in Jimani, *St. Paul the Apostle*, where Father Mosquea was stationed at the time. Luzmery, along with other women, asked Father Mosquea if he would give services in Boca de Cachon, where they lived. The mission grew quickly and under Father Mosquea's leadership, they had even begun building a church in the old village. Since we had purchased land in the former village, the government gave us a plot of land in the new village, however they did not compensate for the construction work we had started since the church had not been completed.

### **Mission Today:**

#### **Community:**

The church is hoping to start construction of the building in the near future since the government has already handed over land for *San Tito*. Since they are still waiting for the construction of a physical church, church services are held in various members' homes. Oftentimes services are held on Saturdays or Sunday afternoons depending on the schedule of Father Nephtaly Désir, the current priest working there. There is also occasionally a bible study on Friday afternoons and they are working to make this a weekly program.

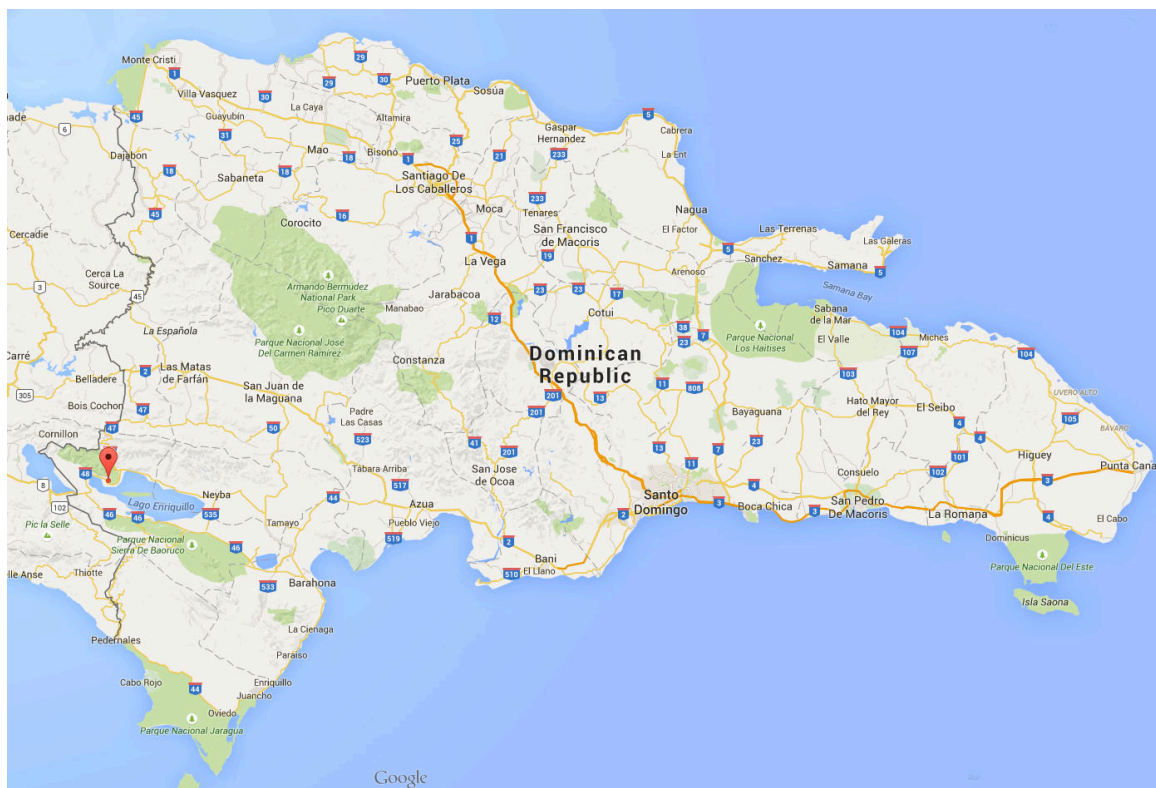
Currently the church community consists of around 30-35. In the village itself, there are very few job opportunities outside teaching at the one school of the village. The majority of the people are *chiripas*, or those who do not have steady jobs but do any work they can find like painting or construction projects. Some also sell food or crafts at the *Mal Paso*, the market along the edge of the Haitian border.

### Location

Latitude and longitude, traditional format: 18° 31' 58.0" N, 71° 46' 39.0" W

Latitude and longitude, decimal format: 18.532778, -71.777500

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



### **Bibliography**

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