

IBCC CASE STUDY
IGLESIA BÍBLICA CRISTIANA CONSUELO

**THE LOCAL CHURCH AND WHOLISTIC MINISTRY
IN CONSUELO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

**BASIC
INFORMATION**



NAME

Iglesia Bíblica
Cristiana Consuelo

DENOMINATION

Bible Church

PASTOR

Leo Hipolito

ADDRESS

Guachupita Calle 3era # 11
Consuelo
San Pedro de Macorís
Dominican Republic

MEMBERSHIP: 275

ATTENDANCE: 300



IBCC MISSION:

To present the gospel to every person, in every location, using all that we have to serve God

IBCC VISION: *To be the body of Christ, desiring and seeking to be an instrument to search out the lost and to save them through Christ.*

HISTORY OF IBCC

Iglesia Bíblica Cristiana Consuelo was born on November 22, 1984, under the pastoral leadership of José Benjamín Payano. From the beginning, the congregation was focused on evangelism, relational evangelism with neighbors, and creative worship.

In 1996 Pastor Jose made the decision to pass the leadership of the church to the current pastor, Leonardo Hipolito Consuelo. Two years later in 1998 the entire country was devastated by Hurricane George. In the city of Consuelo many hundreds were left homeless. and everyone was severely affected in one way or another, leaving the church with the decision to either ignore the urgent needs of its community or become a local center for crisis relief. When the church made the decision to convert itself into the neighborhood homeless shelter for over four months, it forever altered its relationship with the community. Their paradigm of what it means to “do church” was forever changed.

In response to their new calling as a congregation, in 2000 the El Eden after school program was launched and Pastor Arturo Sosa was hired as the Director of the Community Development Center. In 2005, Fidel Castillo was hired to serve as the

church’s youth/young adults pastor, and the church opened a second campus called Centro Betel on the south side of Consuelo. Since the church now has simultaneous services at its two campuses, Leonardo, Arturo and Fidel have developed a preaching rotation that allows all three of them to preach at both campuses on a regular basis.

The health ministry of IBCC cares for the mental and physical health of the community by holding educational workshops, providing hended medications and offering low-cost consultations. IBCC recently launched a full-service medical laboratory where the community receives affordable lab tests and results, and counseling.



WHO DOES CONSUELO SERVE?

The city of Consuelo has a population of approximately 32,000 people and is located in the middle of sugarcane country on the eastern end of the island. During the past few years both the local sugar mill and textile manufacturing facility have been closed.

Consequently, the economy has taken a nose dive and migration has soared. Although most of the people would consider themselves Roman Catholic, there are very few who are actively practicing and the community is essentially non-religious. There are only a few evangelical churches, but they are fairly inwardly focused on the whole, so IBCC along with a couple of other community focused churches are leading the way in making Christ and his kingdom known amongst their neighbors.



MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENT

IBCC'S MISSION IS:

To present the gospel to every person, in every location, using all that we have to serve God

To what degree do church attenders share this focus of the mission?

Our mission challenges each believer in the church to offer all that they are and have to present the gospel to their neighbor. This is not an easy mission, so naturally not everyone is living it out each day. Yet, despite the challenge, a large majority of the our church members embrace the challenge and are giving generously of their time, gifts, and resources to make the gospel relevant and impacting in the lives of others.

To what degree are people living in the Consuelo area aware of the presence of the church and its ministries?

Everyone in the community is aware of and impacted by the ministries of the church. The church has two water filtration plants on different sides of town that provide clean low-cost drinking water to the majority of the community. Through these services nearly everyone knows the church. However, the impact doesn't stop with water. The Community Development Center is serving nearly 500 children a week through a Compassion sponsored educational program, the vocational training center offers courses in a number of different areas, and the church has recently launched a health clinic and lab.

CHURCH GOVERNANCE



PASTOR LEONARDO HIPÓLITO CLEMENTE

his wife Patricia and children, Leonardo y Emely.



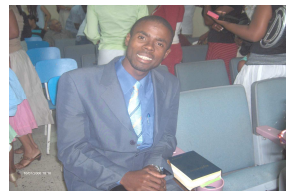
PASTOR RAMÓN CASTRO

and his wife, Guillermina Cáceres.



PASTOR ARTURO SOSA MUÑOZ

his wife Nulbia and daughters Anecha, Ericka y Abigail



FIDEL ALBERTO CASTILLO MEDINA

Pastor de Jóvenes

CHURCH LIFE AT IBCC

Sunday

Morning- Sunday School
Evening- Worship

Tuesday

Evening- Bible Classes

Wednesday

6:30- New Believer's Bible Class
8:00- Men's and Women's
Ministry Meetings

Thursday

Evening- Evangelistic Small
Groups Meetings in Member's
Homes

Friday

Evening- Youth Ministry Meetings

AN INTERVIEW WITH PASTOR LEONARDO HIPOLITO



Let's talk about your evangelism/discipleship process. What percentage of your church members participate in some variety of outreach ministry? 25%

Which of your outreach ministries are most effective?

The El Eden after school program, the vocational training center, and the health clinic.

What have been some of the greatest obstacles the church has faced in regards to these ministries?

Insufficient ministry space and resources are a constant challenge. Consequently, we are limited in terms of the number of people we can serve. The after school program constantly has children wait-listed, and we are limited in terms of the quality of education we can offer through our vocational program. This is why we are working so hard to find a new property.

What have been some of your greatest joys with regards to the church's outreach ministries?

Since we have really embraced being an outwardly focused church, we have seen God do great things to unify and grow the congregation. Our friendships have deepened as we have rolled up our sleeves to serve the community, and many of our neighbors have come to know Jesus as we have opened up our hearts and lives to serve them.

What kind of support do church members involved in outreach ministries receive? What measures are taken to avoid their burning out? What measures have been taken to achieve greater

self-sufficiency? People working with our after school program, vocational training center, and water filtration plants receive some compensation for their hard work. The health clinic director is a paid staff member, but the 11 or so other health care professionals that serve at the clinic work on a volunteer basis.

What ministries are available to new believers? New believers at IBCC participate in a couple of different classes to get them plugged into the church and grow in their faith. The first class is called "My membership in the church" that focuses on learning the basics of the Bible and what it means to be a follower of Christ in the church. After completing the first class, new believers participate in a second class called "Discovering my ministry in the church". The purpose of this class is to help them understand their spiritual gifts and discover how they can use them to serve within the local church. In addition to these two classes, new believers are assigned a personal mentor that meets with them at least once a week.



IBCC'S COMMITMENT TO CONSUELO

Because of the great commission, we have committed to be a great church, with the goal helping our people fulfill God's purpose in their lives by the following things:

1. Celebrating the presence of the Lord
2. Communicating the Word of God
3. Incorporating people into the family of God
4. Helping people to grow to more in the image of Jesús Christ
5. Putting to work our talents and giftedness

MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS OF IBCC

COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Pure Water Ministry – Through two water treatment facilities, the church has been able to contribute to the betterment of the health of the community. The water is of great quality and contributes to the community by providing jobs and reasonably priced drinking water.

Vocational Training Center- The church offers classes in computers, cooking, baking, cosmetology and haircutting.

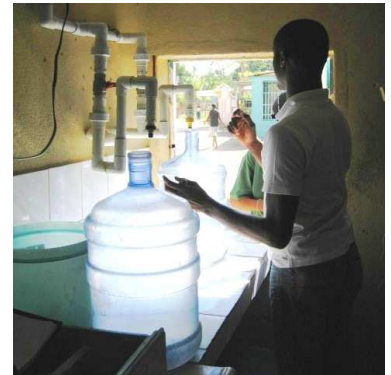
El Eden After School Program- The church works with over 400 students two days a week. This program provides academic reinforcement, spiritual, physical and emotional health education, and a healthy snack to the students each day. There is a long waiting list to be part of this program, as it is the only project of its kind in town.

Health Clinic and Lab- The church has recently launched a low cost community clinic that provides basic medical services, lab services, individual and group counseling services, and community health education.



WHOLISTIC DISCIPLESHIP

Pastoral Ministry	Deacon Service
Small Group Ministry	Sunday School
IBCC Discipleship Program	IBCC Worship Team
Sports Outreach	Visitation Ministry
Prayer Ministry	Men's, Women's and Youth Ministries
Children's Evangelism and Discipleship	Communications Ministry
Women's Poetry	



FUTURE DREAMS

SHORT TERM PLANS: At the moment IBCC is in the process of negotiating the purchase of a three quarters of an acre property on the northern edge of town for future ministry development.

LONG TERM PLANS: Many of the church's long term plans involve the new property they are hoping to purchase. Plans for the property include offering a third service, relocating the church's offices and expanding their vocational training facilities. In addition to all of this program growth, the church is praying that more people would come to know Christ and commit themselves to serving within the church's community transformation ministries.

TRANSFERABLE PRINCIPLES

1 Empowering Servant Leadership
Leonardo represents the strongest model of effective servant leadership we have experienced in network churches. His sacrificial servanthood which is lived out everyday in the church and the community sets the tone for the rest of the church. There is an enthusiasm to serve and contribute to the mission among the congregation that follows his passionate example. Leo develops leaders and empowers them to release their gifts for the common good of the community.

2 Teamwork:
La Iglesia Biblica de Consuelo is a solid model for team leadership and shared responsibility. Leonardo and Arturo have developed a diverse group of leaders who carry out the multiple ministries of the church effectively and efficiently. Leo is not a micro manager and rests on the skills and commitment of the leadership team for teaching, ministry development and outreach.

3 Releasing the gifts of the body:
The church in Consuelo seeks to discover the unique giftings of its members and encourage and empower individuals to put their vocation, passion and spiritual giftedness into action in order to serve the needs of the community. Many ministries that are currently functioning were developed by Leo's commitment to mobilizing their body to serve.