

**Engage Mission Moment**  
**March 2015**  
**Double wedding in Haina, Dominican Republic**

**Instructions:**

Show this PowerPoint slideshow to your congregation or small group while you read the below script to narrate each slide.

**Slide 1**

Title slide.

**Slide 2**

In the community of Haina, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, most cohabiting adult couples are not married. Many have been together for years and have children.

**Slide 3**

Yet, as 21 of these individuals have begun to regularly attend a new Nazarene church plant and give their lives to Christ, the Holy Spirit has been gently speaking to them about their need to be married – an elementary doctrinal belief in the Christian faith.

**Slide 4**

This is the ministry reality faced by Luz Jiménez and Zabdi Jessica Delgado (photo below), two missionaries with the Mesoamerica Genesis initiative, which deployed them to plant a church in Haina earlier last year.

**Slide 5**

Three new believers began meeting with Jiménez and Delgado for discipleship and prayer and, excited about their new faith, brought friends and family members with them to the gatherings. So the congregation grew.

**Slide 6**

As they continue growing in their faith, the new believers have been nudged by the Holy Spirit about their need to stand before God and commit to Him and to their partner to be together for life in marriage in which Christ is the center of the relationship.

**Slide 7**

Félix had just started taking those small steps of faith with God and he didn't really want to get married but his wife Jacqueline was a Christian and she really wanted to get married, Jiménez said. But over 8 months of discipleship, he realized that he needs to be married to live a fuller life in God.

**Slide 8**

Félix wanted to surprise Jacqueline by marrying her. But as the missionaries and Félix worked through the legal process, they realized Jacqueline needed to be involved in the paperwork, so they brought her in on the plan. Eight of the couples in the church have now said they want to complete a marriage ceremony as the next step in their faith. But they have run into some problems.

**Slide 9**

One of the primary reasons so many couples in Haina do not marry is because obtaining the legal paperwork necessary to get married can be a long and expensive process. Another reason is that many of the impoverished people in Haina are not registered with the government when they are born, so they do not have the birth certificate required to be legally married.

**Slide 10**

At the moment, two of the eight couples have all their paperwork. The church held a double wedding ceremony for them in mid February of this year.

**Slide 11**

The wedding was a testimony to the whole community about God's plans for the family and for marriage.

**Slide 12**

The ceremony would not have been possible without the financial backing of Bluffton Church of the Nazarene, in Indiana, which sent a Work & Witness team to Haina with funds to purchase wedding clothes, rings and provide the other costs for the double wedding.

**Slide 13**

"The people here in the Dominican Republic in general believe in God," said Delgado. "But they don't want to make that commitment. I think when they see this wedding, they see commitment and that there's a transformation of life taking place."

**Slide 14**

Jiménez and Delgado said that they will continue helping the other couples work through the legal processes and hopefully have more weddings in the near future. What better way to realize their church is the bride of Christ than to be a church that hosts weddings?

**Slide 15**

ENGAGE slide.