

## Gamaliel Ortiz Bio

Gamaliel (Gami) Ortiz is a native of Puerto Rico. He grew up between and a part of the cultures there and in the States. Gami met his wife, Cathi, at Trinity Christian College just outside of Chicago, where they were both studying music. They married in 2001 and soon thereafter, Gami joined the military to serve the nation and his family. He served nearly 10 years in the Army's Field Artillery. During that time, he also deployed to Iraq and Korea in support of operations there. Even while active in the military, Gami served as a lay leader in the churches he attended, primarily working in the areas of worship music and youth.



After Gami received a commission as an officer, God gave him a passion to serve the church full-time. He resigned his commission in 2010 and started seminary at Liberty that same year. While doing seminary classes online, he served as an assistant pastor at Dayspring Community Church in Lawton, Oklahoma. As he studied, he was drawn to disciple-making across cultures, especially in light of his own experience of living between cultures for much of his life. Overseas missions grew to be an irresistible call. Cathi returned to school for a nutrition degree to be of use in that capacity in developing nations. In 2012, Gami and Cathi both led a short-term missions team from their church to Haiti. During that trip, God made it known that Haiti was where they would serve. In May of 2013, Gami and Cathi moved to Haiti with their four children. For the first three years of ministry in Haiti, the Ortiz family partnered with Nehemiah Vision Ministries, the social arm of Campus Crusade in Haiti. Gami served as the staff and outreach pastor, shepherding the American staff of the organization as well as preaching in the Haitian campus church and running a pastoral leadership development program for local church leaders. Cathi served as the director for the child sponsorship program and assisted in the nutrition program at the clinic. Together, they were the missions directors responsible for hosting short-term missionaries to their campus.

After three years, God increased Gami's passion for teaching the word and developing other leaders. He found opportunities to use that in partnering with a local Bible institute and Training Leaders International. For the last two and a half years, he has been teaching courses such as Systematic Theology, Old and New Testament Surveys, and Christian Leadership at the school. He also has continued seminars and conferences for local church leaders and mentoring young pastors. Meanwhile, Gami serves as a worship leader and preaches at an English-speaking church in Petionville.

Gami and Cathi are very passionate about marriage and family. As only He could do, God blessed them with another child in the last year, bringing the number to five children: Miguel (16), Kayla (15), Sandra (13), Isaac (9), and Miraya (< 1 year).