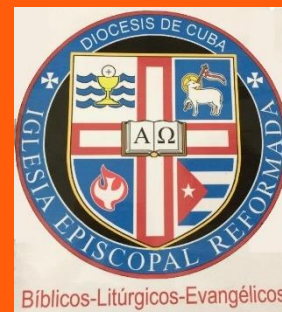




MISSION TEAM & 2018 SYNOD PARTICIPANTS

Cuba Chronicles



Mission 2018

January 2018 Mission Trip

by Claudia Dorrington & Friends

Dear Supporters of our Reformed Episcopal Cuban Mission
Having just returned from our 10-day trip to Cuba, I am full of enthusiasm for the work of my Cuban brothers and sisters in our churches. The prayers of so many of you were heard and answered. We were able to bring all medicines and other necessities into the country with minimal difficulty. God is good...all the time!



The Team: Accompanying me were: Michael Tweedle (ANiC), in charge of

medicines and the handling of finances; the Rev. Ben Bernier (REC), theological education; Claus Lenk (ARDFC), to check on our taxi donated last year; and two first time visitors: the Rev. Julius Barnes (REC), President and Dean of Cummins Theological College and Meredith Murray (REC), who has sewn all of the Clergy stoles since the beginning of the Cuban Mission!

Mission of the Cuban Church: The Clergy work hard to evangelize their neighbourhoods and to expand their church plants with fervour born of the Holy Spirit, the pure Gospel and out of the presence of Jesus Christ in their own lives. Continuing theological studies have become their firm foundation and their sermons seem richer and richer every year! Some, like Alexei in Florida, teach their parishioners from course material

that they have themselves just passed. The Cubans have come to understand that poverty is diminished through education, so love to learn more to reach, serve and help others. They know that there is no dead end in Christianity, only increased depth.



Every day the ministers and members of Synod asked me, in Spanish, how their "father", Obispo Charles, was doing and then wanted hugs from mama Claudia. To my surprise, I was able to understand much of what was asked and able to speak in whole sentences!

The growing fellowship and unity between the people, their pastors

and Bishop is evident. To realize what God has done in just fifteen short years gave us all a sense of awe and gratitude to the Lord of Hosts!

The Synod was run with precision. Pastors gave reports of their parishes and many hands of love were laid upon them in prayer. The financial Committee meeting demonstrated where all monies given had been used wisely and accountability was obvious to all present. Because God enabled us to raise the whole budget needed for 2018, with a small surplus, a few new projects may be possible... perhaps piglets and lambs. More on that to come.

Mike Tweedle: Mike reports being extremely pleased that all the med kits went through Cuban customs this time without a hitch. In fact, they had more than sufficient for the churches' needs and were then able to share some of what had been donated with others! TBTG! Everything God supplies can become a vehicle of evangelism.



One of the highlights of Mike's trip was being able to pray with the clergy and synod delegates. Shared prayer brought the team and the Cuban pastors closer and enhanced the unity they all have for the Mission of the church.

Claus Lenk: (an excerpt from his prayer support letter). Thank you for praying for me and the team on the mission trip to Cuba. The Lord protected us in a special way. As some of us were questioned for quite some time at entry, those waiting for us outside the arrival hall were praying. Things changed, and we were welcomed by our friends waiting outside!

The first part of the visit was in the town of Holguin and the church there, where we saw the car! You will remember that ARDFC raised and delivered \$55,000 Can for the Reformed Episcopal Diocese of Cuba to purchase a van. Automobiles are very expensive and difficult to obtain in Cuba. The van has turned out to be an 8 passenger 1955 Chevrolet



station wagon, fully refurbished with a new Mitsubishi diesel engine. The car is already generating income in providing transportation from Moa to Holguin.

The people are poor, compared to our values, but have the necessities of life. The difference being in our North American society our economy is based on "wants". Whereas in Cuba, it is based on "needs". For example, during communion, people are asked not to drink the wine in the cup, but just to dip the bread in a small 2 oz. cup. They cannot afford to buy a whole bottle of wine!

In the town of Florida (Cuba) we visited the house that some of us helped purchase in 2017. It is now a

"Christian Centre". The large living area serves as a church. There are some administrative rooms and in the back property is an area where pigs are raised, to sell the piglets for profit. There is no waste!

At Synod, I saw picture of good governance under the leadership of Bp. Willians. Anybody who gave a report or those on our team who shared were immediately prayed for by several friends with the laying on of hands and anointing of oil. Whereas a year ago there was some discouragement among some of the pastors (yes the enemy works here too), reports this year contained wonderful notes of spiritual growth among believers, new believers trusting Jesus and baptisms. Prayer works!

On a personal note: last year a young Lay Reader prayed for me for healing on the day of Pentecost; I received a temporary gift of interpretation and he, the gift of knowledge as to what to pray for. This year after I gave a talk, we met again and there was powerful prayer as we prayed for each other. The Holy Spirit did a wonderful thing for all of us, people of different background and different language, being unified by a common journey of faith. Thanks be to God!

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