



## What is God Doing in Cuba?

Incredible things are happening in Cuba. The Church is alive, vibrant and moving forward. Churches are multiplying as people come to Christ and are discipled. Those who work with God's people in Cuba have the blessing of hearing first hand what is happening. In this issue of the Cuba Report we will let some of our Los Pinos Nuevos pastors share with you, from their hearts, what God is doing in their churches. Pray for them, their churches and the people of Cuba. Please ask the Lord if He would like you to have a part in helping them through your financial gifts.



### Notes from Perico

Pastor Abel Luis

*“Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” Mark 5:19*

In March 2005 we began our ministry in Perico, in the province of Matanzas, Cuba. It was a church known for its deeply rooted traditionalism. Everything had to be done in the church building. We arrived with the intent of putting up a new church building. Construction had been mired in permits and planning for seven years. Within two months of our arrival the Lord showed us His plan. He was more interested in building the congregation than a new building. It was Jesus' church which was important, the body of Christ, not the building. Seeing God's leading we began with prayer and fasting, five people meeting Tuesdays from 8:00 to 10:00 am. Today that group consists of 35 people plus two more prayer groups meeting during the week and another on Sunday morning which prays while Sunday School is taking place!

What were our first prayers? We asked the Lord to enable us to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our town which was lost in idolatry, African religions and false teaching. We asked the Lord to allow us to rescue any of the Christians who had slipped away from the church, using the principle found in the book of James, the passage of James 5:19-20, *“My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.”*

Within three months the first fruits of our prayers were seen. Most of those who had left the church were back. After 6 months our evangelistic groups began to see their first results in the surrounding area as many people came to faith in Christ. Our Sunday School rose to 60 people and we saw growth in our women's ministry and those of men, children and youth as well.

When our aging church building began to creak and groan and threaten to fall it had to be demolished in order to begin something new. Many in the congregation cried openly not understanding that God is in control and always has a reason for all that happens to His people. We ended up with no place to meet so searched for new options. One was to meet in the homes of our people. We found there were 6 homes open to us, strategically scattered throughout the town. Soon we were meeting in 10 homes.

At the same time all this was happening, Los Pinos Nuevos asked us to hold an Evangelistic Festival called, "There is Hope in Jesus." Each of us were to spend three months praying and building relationships with 7 non-Christian friends with whom we could share Jesus. After 3 months we had a special evangelistic meeting which was held in our church, now under construction. There was no roof, no floor. We sat on concrete blocks and construction materials. That night more than 500 non-Christians gathered to hear God's Word. About 200 of them prayed to receive Jesus as their Saviour. Now what? They had to be disciplined and brought into a vital Christian life. That's what God did through our ten home groups, meeting without a church building. Our ten house churches took on a new relevance as we met with new believers who began their life in Christ in homes rather than in one big church building.

What's happening right now? We recently took part in a course in Havana where we attend workshops on house church multiplication. Returning home we brought together our church leadership and concluded that although no one had told us what to do, our church had actually been using the same methodology for a few years. We decided to continue, and to use some of the new ideas we had learned in Havana.

Our first house church has multiplied. Twenty people began a new house church, leaving 25 in the original one. That church grew so rapidly it soon had to split again, resulting in a third church with 15 people. Then another of our original ten house churches multiplied and began another new church, this one with 10 people.

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Today our congregation meets together only on Sundays for Sunday School which has an attendance of about 140. About 150 of our people meet only in house churches where they are spiritually fed, nurtured and cared for as Christians. In our house churches we study the Word of God, pray, fast, preach, disciple those who have come to Christ, give our tithes and offerings and do most of the things done in a regular church. In our central church building, as God's people united together, we celebrate the Lord's Supper, weddings and similar things. Baptisms take place in the ocean since we have no nearby pools available to us.

We understand fully, and publically proclaim, that only the power of the Holy Spirit is capable of doing what we have seen happen here among us. We want everyone to know that all glory and all honour is to go to our Lord Jesus Christ who is the only one to whom honour is due.

***"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes"*** Romans 1:16

We joyfully praise God for using us to reach this community for Him.

# God at Work in Camaguey

Pastor Aliesky Perez

For the past year I have been the pastor of the Los Pinos Nuevos church in Camaguey, a city of more than 500,000 people. My family and I arrived here about a year ago and faced a huge challenge. Never before had I ministered in a place with such a huge population. But God has been very good and has poured out His blessings upon us.

The Los Pinos Nuevos church here was founded 16 years ago and in the last few years had concentrated on programs and activities within the church to such an extent that it had lost its vision of winning the world for Christ. I thank the Lord that the leaders of the church have now begun to capture the vision for God's plan to evangelize and bring others to Himself. There has been a new awakening to this within our congregation.

By God's grace we have begun a house church, a new church plant, 3 kilometres from where our church meets. There a group of our people joyfully meet each week to share and study. In the last little while we have seen people come to Christ in this new work!



Pastor Aliesky Perez and Family

Our main Camaguey congregation has a membership of 50 people and each Sunday we have between 60 and 70 people attend our service. During just this past year we have seen more than thirty people receive Jesus as their Saviour and begin to walk with Him. Every Sunday we are seeing people who don't know Jesus walk into church giving us the opportunity to share the gospel with them.

**What are some of the things we are doing?** We had an Evangelistic Festival called "There Is Hope in Jesus" where we saw more than 15 people come to Christ. This past summer we had a Vacation Bible School with over 70 children in attendance. Many received Jesus as their Saviour. In the last while we held workshops on multiplication where 18 of our people were equipped to do church planting.

**What's Next?** We need you to pray for us as we make plans for the future. We want to be a church with a missionary vision, one which plants churches, which sends out missionaries and helps support missionaries. We want to have many, many home groups where our people can meet weekly to pray and study God's Word. We want to continue to offer workshops and seminars to train our local church leaders. We want to evangelize other parts of our city. We want to build a classroom for the children who attend our church



A Service in Camaguey

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, it is a true joy for me to be able to serve Christ as a pastor. There have been many struggles, not everything is rosy, but God has always been with us. In Acts 18:9-10 we have the wonderful promises of what He can do in this place,

*"Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city."*

Thank you so much for your concern and prayers for the work of the Lord in Cuba. Thank you for being participants with us in the blessings of working together in this ministry of faith.

# What's Going On In Sancti Spiritus?

**Pastor Héctor Bermúdez.**

By God's grace, our ministry in the city of Sancti Spiritus has seen wonderful growth. People are repenting of their sin and laying their lives at Jesus' feet, acknowledging that this Christ is the only solution for the greatest need of every human being, that is, our sin.

Our strategy has been to use saturation evangelism. Working within the laws of the land we have established prayer cells and house churches. During the past few years we have planted two daughter churches and right now are working on planting a third.

Our church in Sancti Spiritus has 71 prayer cells. Our greatest desire is that many of these prayer cells would grow to become churches. Our prayer groups have been placed in strategic locations throughout the city which would naturally lead to new church plants. Complementing our vision of church planting is our vision of training and discipling every Christian for the work of the ministry and the fulfilling of the Great Commission, following the instructions found in Ephesians 4:12 and Matthew 28:19-20. This has evolved to become our great desire to glorify God through small groups forming a cell church.

We have watched as God uses prayer cells for the growth of His church. To God's glory, so far this year we have baptized 41 people. Our congregation now numbers 780 people.

As all of this has taken place, one important step has been the formation of leaders. Every two months we have a leadership training meeting where we make sure everyone understands where we are going as a church and understands the main reason for our existence as a church. Leaders play a very important role in the church as the Body of Christ matures and develops. When we have well trained leaders who are focussed on the true meaning of the Gospel, that is, on it's meaning as the total help for every need in our life, this produces healthy, growing disciples who in turn result in a healthy church. It is a logical consequence that healthy churches reproduce themselves and impact their community.

We truly thank God that our denomination, the Evangelical Convention of Cuba "The New Pines" is growing. Most of our churches are multiplying and we have many servants of God who are focussed on the Principles of God's Eternal Reign.

## Can You Help?

Cubans need our help for operating the Los Pinos Nuevos Seminary, for training, and much, much more. Please pray for them, and if you are able, help them by sending your donation to help reach Cuba for Christ.

**Would you like to be involved in supporting ministry in Cuba? Your donation will help provide the things Cuban churches cannot provide for themselves.**

Yes, I want to have a part in ministry in Cuba I am enclosing my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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