



Havana, Churches in Homes

Pastor Hector Rodriguez

What a privilege! To tell you about what is happening among us here in Havana. For several years we have been developing a ministry to bring the gospel to the City, through the planting and multiplication of churches in homes. We have worked under the slogan, "Rejoicing in my City!" We believe that there are many things which can be done to provide a little bit of happiness and joy to each person around us. It may be that we help someone solve a health problem, or we help them resolve a personal or family need, whether monetary or something else. This brings joy, seeing a friend lend a hand in a situation we can't solve on our own. What about the joy of receiving the gospel of Jesus Christ? That is something extraordinary that brings life long joy!



In our ministry we have had some difficulties, especially with leadership and housing. Despite a few such problems, we have been blessed to see this work of God established in several different communities. At the same time, we have been developing a large leadership team where each one has the responsibility of planting, evangelism and discipleship in a predetermined location. These leaders support each other and accompany one another in the situations where the collaboration of two or more ministry colleagues is needed.

When it comes to leadership training we have help from a satellite centre of the Theological Seminary of Cuba, "Los Pinos Nuevos" as well as from the Centre for Leadership Training (CENCAP), both based in our Los Pinos Nuevos church in Old Havana, the heart of the city. The two seminaries offer different programs to strengthen and multiply leadership.

In our ministry within the City of Havana, the Lord has given us the opportunity to have other ministries directed towards the community at large to bless the elderly, children, the needy and vulnerable people. We also have programs which minister to those within the church itself such as "A guitar and a guitarist" which is aimed at strengthening ministry in home churches to develop the worship of God and strengthen their evangelistic and church planting ministries.

Sometimes it seems we are not making a lot of progress in the City of Havana. However when we look back in time we realize that only a few years ago there were only two Los Pinos Nuevos churches in Havana. One was in Old Havana, near the so-called "Historical heart" of the City of Havana, a place declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO, and the other in the suburb of Almendares Playa, on the northwest of the city. Now however, we have home churches flourishing in many parts of Havana, in places such as:



The Miramar Team

- ! Miramar in the suburb of Playa,
- ! Santa Fe in the suburb Playa,
- ! El Vedado in the suburb of Plaza de la Revolución
- ! The suburb of Cerro
- ! The suburb of Marianao
- ! Alta Habana in the suburb of Boyeros
- ! The suburb of San Miguel del Padrón

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Besides these churches, we have a presence in other parts of the city where the church planting process is in the phase of "gestation." By the grace of God we will see His work magnified and people following Christ and glorifying His name because each new day we see this church planting movement growing stronger and stronger. Churches in homes are being multiplied as this movement reaches all across Havana.



An Evangelism Team in Miramar

Challenges in Oliver



My name is Jaisel Piñero Rives and my wife is Lilianna Domínguez Soberón. We began pastoral ministry about 5 years ago and now serve in the small town of Oliver, the home of the Los Pinos Nuevos Seminary. Oliver is a rural area, one where people don't have a lot of money and so live in a context of constant shortages of many things.

Ministry here has its challenges. We are seeing a loss of moral values among the younger generation here in Oliver. The challenge for the church is to minister to these youth who have no moral or biblical absolutes. A growing loss of values can be seen in the new generations of youth here so the church has the task of ministering to youth who have no moral and biblical foundation. One challenge has been to teach the youth of the church and in this we have succeeded. Our church youth are not showing the same ethical deterioration seen in the larger community and in Cuban youth in general. Our urgent need is to build a youth ministry that meets the most pressing needs of the young people in our community. The challenge is to raise the awareness of the people in our church to this need and find members willing to take on this difficult and challenging ministry.

We beg you to join us in prayer that we would be able to live up to the challenge that the apostle Paul gave to the young Timothy: "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2: 15 NIV).

My First Pastorate



I am Pedro Luis Barreto Brito, twenty-four years old. I am originally from the town of Falcon, which is about 5 kilometers from the Los Pinos Nuevos Seminary. I thank the Lord that ministering with me is my beloved wife Rossaly Valdés Pérez. She is my great help in the church in which we minister and in my studies.

By the grace of God I work and study at the Los Pinos Nuevos Seminary, things I can do thanks to the help of my wife and my colleagues in the seminary. Part of my work is in the maintenance area, working with Zandy, Dairon and my managers Marcos Cabrera the seminary Administrator and Manuel Gallardo the Academic Dean. It has been a great blessing to be able to begin studies at the seminary and better prepare myself to serve the Lord.

I thank the Lord that I am able to serve as a pastor at the church in the town of Miller, about 10 kilometers west of the seminary. I have only been ministering for a short time at this church the Lord has entrusted into my care, and honestly, I don't really feel worthy of the position given to me.

I am happy with what I'm doing in Miller. It is a small, rural church of about 20 people. Together we are growing spiritually, more and more each day, towards the image of God. Our main focuses, as Rossaly and I pastor this congregation, is to be able to take the Word of Jesus to the entire community, to get to know everyone and identify with the needs of the people here where God has called us to minister. We have many goals before us, but little by little, with the guidance of our almighty God, we can do it.

We ask all of you, friends of the ministry here in Cuba, friends from all over the world, to remember us in your prayers. Pray that we young leaders will receive God's power from on high and His wisdom so that we can serve God in the midst of our challenges. May God bless you.

What Can We Do?

I have spent about twenty-five years coming and going, ministering in Cuba. There have been huge changes in Cuba in that time. To a casual visitor, looking at the country, it looks about the same, but there has been great change. The economy has changed, laws have changed, Cuba is different.

The greatest change in the past twenty-five years is what has happened in Cuban Churches. There are more of them. A lot more of them. God has multiplied His people in Cuba. The Los Pinos Nuevos denomination has undergone radical transformation in twenty-five years. Instead of about sixty struggling churches there are now hundreds of churches and house churches spread across the country, each proclaiming Jesus to their community. Besides these churches, there are also a myriad of cell churches in the denomination. And this is just Los Pinos Nuevos, one denomination. There are over fifty Christian denominations in Cuba and all have multiplied over the past twenty-five years.

I specifically used the word "multiplied." When you grow from sixty churches to several hundred churches, that is multiplication. That is God at work doing things we can't imagine could have occurred. It is not something we have done, or Cubans have done, but God's sovereign hand at work. He has used his dear Cuban servants to accomplish this work. He has used many people from Canada, the United States, Europe and Latin America. God has used His People to accomplish His work in Cuba. To God be the Glory.



A ministry team at the LPN Seminary Farm

The task in Cuba is not finished. There are so many churches now that pastors can't be trained fast enough. There are people who need to hear the Gospel, so church planters must be trained. Isn't it an incredible, wonderful situation to be in when we can't keep up with what God is doing!

Would you like to be a part of God's incredible plan for Cuba? Your church can make a ministry trip to Cuba. You could make a donation to help the Los Pinos Nuevos Seminary train young Cubans to be pastors and church planters. Perhaps help us print modern books right in Cuba or help with the costs of the home for retired Christian workers who have no family to help them.

God is at work in Cuba. We invite you to be a part of what He is doing in this island nation by giving to one of the Cuba Projects or by putting together a church team to minister in Cuba. Most important, you can pray for what God is doing in Cuba.

Monthly prayer requests can be found at:

http://www3.telus.net/Gary_Clow/Downloads/CubaPray.pdf

Let me know if you would like more information.

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A ministry team playing games with Cuban Christians

Would You Like to Help?

Would you like to help with Cuba ministry expenses? You can donate using World Team's secure online donation system. Follow the appropriate link below and in the blank for the missionary or project name choose one of the following projects.

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For Printing Books in Cuba (40510)

Pastors Retirement Home Project (040528)

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Want more information about World Team or Cuba?

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