

The Garcia Gazette

Reaching Mexico and the Nations for Jesus

March 2018 - Cuba Edition!



Pablo & Martha Garcia
Serving with LIM at the
church "La Gran Comisión" in
Ensenada Mexico

Reaching Mexico and
the Nations for Jesus

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A Dozen? YES, we've held a DOZEN DTI conferences in Cuba! And each time God shows up to bless and grow us even more!



This year we averaged about 100 engaged pastors & leaders each of the five days. Nine small group breakouts were facilitated by our

Cuban trainers and Pablo and I. We were privileged to travel with the DTI team serving in the U.S. and beyond, Frank and Jeanette Meitz!

Our Host Church this year was Alianza Misionera Cristocentro Internacional. All of the attendees were from this one denomination and it was our first time to work with them. They have eight geographic regions throughout Cuba, and the Coordinator for each region attended the entire week, as well as the Vice President.

While they already believe in personal one-on-one discipleship, the senior pastor said their current program was "just limping along". So, they are very excited about implementing DTI. Each Coordinator received extra books and made plans to conduct mini-conferences in their area.



Pre-Conference - Digging Deeper!



Our expanding Cuban Team and the four of us met for three days of fellowship, worship, study and conference preparation. It was an incredible time of going deep and learning and preparing together before the conference.

Our Cuban Partners continue to take on more responsibility. All of the dramas and skits that we use throughout the week to help demonstrate different concepts were performed with excellence by our Cuban Trainers. They also led the daily team meetings, accepted responsibility for logistics, and participated in the



main platform teaching typically done by Frank and Pablo. Their testimonies are inspiring of how they have implemented DTI in their churches -- and the difference it has made in peoples' lives!



A note from Frank:

"On Wednesday while I was teaching on Lordship (basically, who is in charge of managing your life -- You or God?), I heard Martha whisper that several people around her were frustrated because they had never been told about making this decision. Even though I had not planned on it, the Holy Spirit prompted me to stop in the middle of the lesson allowing Pablo to give an altar call for Lordship (or recommitment to His authority).

"It was an amazing 35 minutes of men and women praying for each other, as they made the commitment of turning their lives over to the Lord to manage. The Lord is growing me considerably as I listen to Him rather than react as a "type A" personality American trainer who wants to complete the lesson plan! The Trainers told us later how this event was critically important to the conference attendees."



The Manual: At the end of the conference every attendee receives an extra discipleship manual, so they can begin spiritually mentoring others immediately. We give out **all** extra manuals to Pastors and Missionaries.



Hermanos en Cristo, the denomination we have worked with since the beginning has committed to include the DTI material in their seminary curriculum. Each quarter they bring pastors from their 99 churches to their main conference center for on-going training. When we asked Luis Alberto Hernandez Bermudez, our leader/contact, how many manuals they would need in 2018 for this effort, he responded that 1,000 would not be out of the question! So, DTI left dollars with him to print more manuals for this purpose throughout the coming year. They can print them in-country for about \$1 each.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting the Cuba conferences. Although DTI does not charge for anything (materials are free on the website) they do pay for the entire conference, including food, lodging, transportation and materials since most of the pastors and leaders earn less than \$20 a month and do not have the resources to afford attending on their own.

Please pray with us and the leadership in Cuba, as well as our team, seek God's guidance for where to target a conference in 2019.

Gracias



Pablo and I stayed an extra three weeks after the discipler training conference to teach the pre-marital counseling curriculum. We also taught how to help couples in crisis, and did some personal

counseling with three couples. We visited a house church just recently planted, and spent some personal time with the leadership that we work with yearly.

We taught in five churches in the Province of Sanctis Spiritus in two different denominations. We hadn't met any of the pastors before, so it was an adventure! We traveled by horse and buggy, big yellow school bus, a 1957 Oldsmobile and on foot!



Because we were working with other denominations and our religious visa was issued to work with Hermanos en Cristo, a couple in leadership with Hnos. in Cristo were our escorts in our travels!

The Liga Evangelica is one of the denominations that we worked with and they were so excited by the topic of Marriage and Pre-marital Counseling and the training they received, they asked us to talk further with them on how it could be implemented in their churches. Commitment and faithfulness, expectations and conflict resolution in marriage are rarely talked about.



We were hosted by the president of the denomination, Arnoldo and his wife and we stayed up late into the night talking about the need for these teachings in the church in Cuba. Arnoldo is one of the people who decide what things are taught in their seminary. They requested the pdf copies of our resources, and Pre-marital counseling is now going to be a standard class that is taken by all leaders that are in training to plant a mission as well as those that are already in the field. He wants to make it a requirement that pre-marital counseling be put into practice in their churches and that each new couple wanting to get married would go through the course before they



marry. We pray that as a result of this, the young marriages that receive this teaching will start out strong and firm both in conviction and commitment.

The leadership in Cuba talked to us about hosting and organizing a couples retreat the next time we go (Most likely April 2019). It would mean a considerable amount of funds needed to be raised. The retreat would be 3-4 days, for couples in ministry. There would be a portion of

the conference for training and another portion would be to give them an opportunity to connect deeply or even re-connect with their spouses on an emotional and spiritual level. We would most likely invite others to come with us or meet us there to give workshops on the different topics. Please be praying about this with us!

Thank you again for standing with us in every endeavor in both of the countries of our heart...

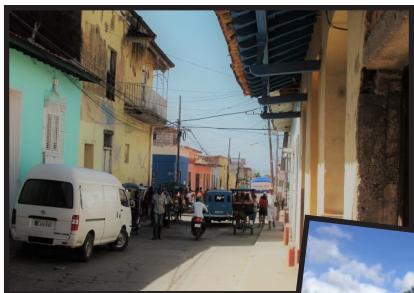
A child's bike seat



Pablo & Martha



We sure
love &
enjoy each
other!



City & Rural Scapes



In Sync!

