

◀ The Garcia Gazette

Reaching Mexico and the Nations for Jesus

November 2024

Link International Ministries



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Serving with LIM at the
church "La Gran Comisión" in
Ensenada Mexico

Reaching Mexico and the Nations for Jesus

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Link International Ministries
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Donations are tax
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Dear friends and family,

We hope that you are enjoying this fall season with the leaves changing and the weather turning crisp!

We returned from Cuba on October 1st and are so excited to share with you the experiences and God's moving during our time there. We had 110 pastors and leaders in attendance from 14 different denominations.

Our DTI conference is modeled after the training that our leaders, Frank and Jeannette Meitz delivered in their secular jobs -- a combination of platform and small groups, based on facilitating, not teaching. This allows for a consistent message from the main platform, including skits and activities, followed by small groups where the attendees drilled down into the content as they read and shared together on these Biblical concepts.

Pablo translated for a couple of the sessions and taught several, along with our Cuban leadership! Many attendees said that they had never experienced the depth and simplicity of this type of training, as it will allow them to easily share with new believers.

General Sessions



Small Breakout Groups were facilitated by our Cuban team members.



Implementation of what they learned is critical.

Many of us have attended a conference and do nothing with what we have learned. To help make the conference practical, we had attendees role-play how to effectively engage 1-on-1 with a newer Christian.



On the last day, each church group met together and developed a plan for implementation to have the most impact on the spiritual growth of their congregation and with the individuals God will lead them to disciple...



How to have a conference with intermittent electricity!

Battery operated lights, projector, and computer helped us keep going when the power went off without warning. Unfortunately, this is a normal occurrence in Cuba. (An occurrence which has gotten much more difficult this last month).



And to cook with no electricity and limited propane gas, our 8 cooks used a wood fire to prepare our meals! They did a marvelous job. And even butchered a pig to feed us for the week - along with LOTS of beans, rice, cucumbers and avocados. And ALWAYS Cuban coffee!



“The Pallet” by Frank Meitz

[We shared in our last newsletter about a pallet that was sent from Florida, ahead of our arrival in Cuba, for the conference.] Frank shares:

“You may remember that we sent a pallet of 1000 discipleship manuals and 1000 pounds of food on a container ship from Jacksonville, Florida to Cuba, specifically for the DTI discipleship conference. Many of you were praying for the timely arrival and release by customs.

“While we couldn't get accurate information on the status of the pallet, I had a dream about 10 days before the conference, where I clearly saw our bus pulling up to where the container truck was located, and our team was loading the materials on our bus.

“God clearly told me not to worry”.

“So even at the disbelief of our Cuban trainers who said it was impossible for the materials to be cleared through customs that quickly, by faith we drove to the location on Friday, the day of our arrival, on our way to the conference.

“When we arrived, our pallet was already unloaded, still in the shrink wrap. After about 15 minutes, I met with three customs officers who inspected the pallet, and after I answered their questions, they released everything to us! Our Trainers loaded all 1000 manuals, the 400 pounds of white rice, the 450 pounds of black beans, and all of the other dry goods that provided healthy protein-rich meals for the conference attendees.

“Our Cuban team expressed -- with tears in their eyes -- that they knew God had not forgotten them -- by how He had worked things out for the conference to benefit all of them. In the midst of hardships in life and ministry the last several years, they were encouraged.”



The quarterly shipment of pallets has now opened up as a possibility with a partner ministry. If you would like to know more about this, please let us know.

Leadership Retreat

As we shared in our last newsletter, after the DTI conference, we hosted a “Leadership Retreat” for our Cuban trainers. The focus of the retreat was on God being in the center of their lives, ministries and relationships. We addressed some tough topics, and we ministered to their marriages. We had time for spiritual renewal and for playing and relaxing. There were opportunities for them to interact with each other with a fresh, new perspective – helping them to see each other’s hearts and facilitating forgiveness and promoting unity.

We took our team of teachers (19 of us) to another area in Pinar del Rio. The beauty of the place was amazing! There were pine trees right in the mix of

tropical plants and trees. (Which to a Washington girl brought sighs of contentment!) The place that was reserved for us was nestled in the mountains and was so quiet. Each couple and one single had their own cabin, not connected to other cabins – so not only were we plopped into a natural paradise, but we were also able to pause from the busy lives we live as pastors and pastor’s wives and REST in body and soul.



Amazing things happened in each life. Many shared with us that they had never had a honeymoon and to be in such a beautiful place and not have to worry about where their next meal would come from was in itself such a gift.



The light-spirited object lesson -type activities that had truly profound concepts, with teaching following the object lesson made everything fall into place in a creative way and facilitated dealing with hard things, in not such a painful approach.

As we left our beloved team, there was peace in relationships. There was strength to take a new breath and keep on... Plans were made for video conversations to follow-up on some of the situations dealt with while there.

We are so thankful.

One of the couples wrote us the following testimony—**which also thanks EACH ONE OF YOU** who stand behind us every year.



“Let my gratitude be known to all those who made this event possible, and who do so each year to continue expanding HIS KINGDOM! ...Thank you for every spiritual and material gift you gave us.

“Thank you for that very gratifying and necessary moment of spiritual retreat, unity, forgiveness and reconciliation, encouragement in the midst of our storms...

“For the delicious food of eternal life that you give us with your teachings and also for the food that sustains our physical bodies during our stay... for the medicine, clothes, the shoes, for the eye-glasses, and water... Thank you so so much!

“As for our marriage...it is beautiful to see how INTIMACY WITH GOD makes our marriage MORE UNITED, MORE IN LOVE!

“The spiritual retreat on UNITY that we had made us able to better recognize and even confirm the ministry to which, as a couple we have been called...

“Thank you for the HONEYMOON, which many of us got... There are no words to thank you! It was an incomparable experience, something that we will never forget! Being a part of this was a true honor, a privilege, a great blessing.”

iGracias!

BECAUSE EVERY PICTURE
Tells a story



Edge pics are our leadership team



Frank & Pablo team teaching

The team, pre-conference in planning & prep mode!



Guacamole anyone?!



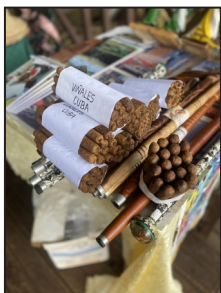
*Love
Love
Love*



A creative way to travel!



Culture...



Thank you for standing with us with your prayers and financial gifts. Truly together we serve. Blessings and love to each one...



Pablo & Martha