

◆ The Garcia Gazette

Reaching Mexico and the Nations for Jesus

December 2014—Special Cuba Edition!



Link International
Ministries



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Ensenada Mexico

*Reaching Mexico and
the Nations for Jesus*

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**NEWLY UPDATED!!
TAKE A LOOK**

Dear friends and family,

As I begin this letter it is Thanksgiving Day and it is 86° outside! I sit here reflecting on Cuba and all that God did and does every day of our lives, and I realize it is the perfect day to write a newsletter! We are so thankful...for

- Salvation of our souls and a promise of forever with Him.
- God's provision for today.
- YOU!
- Our marriage and family
- Mexico – our home and people!
- Cuba – whose land and people have nestled into a big spot in our hearts!



Discipleship in Cuba! This November we traveled to Camaguey, the largest city in Cuba – right about the center of the island. A bustling city, streets packed with all types of transportation and foot traffic imaginable! This trip we stayed in a private home that rents out rooms and serves breakfast (and any meal needed!) to their guests! It was a wonderful experience and over the 9 nights there we were able to also witness to and get into some great conversations with our hosts.



Frank & Jeanette, Pablo & Martha, Dulenia & Paneque

A wonderful "extra" in going to Cuba repeatedly is that all of us who serve together have made an incredible bond of friendship that is celebrated every time that we get to

work and play together! This trip we traveled with our ministry partners, Frank and Jeanette Meitz. Our Cuban team was made up eight experienced DTI leaders. They facilitated the breakout groups, opened the sessions, and testified how God is using the DTI materials to change people's lives and grow their churches.



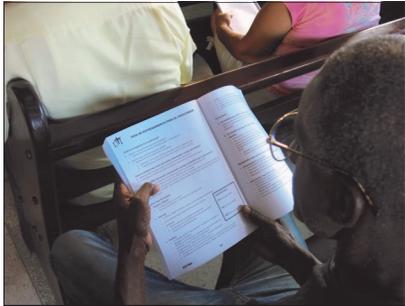
The Cuban Leadership Team

In attendance we had over 20 churches from 13 different denominations who came to the five-day workshop designed to "Equip the Saints." (Eph.4:11) At the end of the week when some of the pastors were giving testimony of what the Lord had done in their hearts during the week, one such pastor said the following about the "inter-denominational" facet of the conference: **"This discipleship is breaking institutional barriers of denominations.** We are not proclaiming a denomination...that I am a Methodist, you are a Baptist.... we are proclaiming that Jesus Christ lives, heals and saves!"

We want to share a couple of stories with you about different people that have been to the trainings and are using the discipleship materials as a part of their daily lives and ministry.

PASTOR ALBERTO PANEQUE, our in-country organizer, related this thought about discipleship: **"Discipleship has become one of the forming programs for the eastern part of the island.** And not just within our denomination but **across all denominational lines.** It has brought great growth to the church. We are so grateful for what God is doing."

He shared a story with us that was of great impact. **“I am discipling three men.** One of them comes from a line of 31 pastors in his family. He has spent his whole life building up churches. However, he had really **difficult problems with this character** and this really was affecting his ministry and everyone that worked with him. So I began discipling him personally. After going through several of the lessons, he



confessed to me one day that he believed that he had never been a Christian and now he could truly profess Christ and live as a Christian.”

Paneque went on to share; “Now we are using the DTI tool to not only grow the hearts of the new believers, but also to touch areas of the lives of older believers .”

Francisco, a pastor with the Hermanos en Cristo (our host denomination), has attended the last four conferences, often participating in Pablo's small group. When we were in Santiago de Cuba in 2011, he approached Pablo and I with a request for marriage counseling. He and his wife were separated and his wife had told him that he could not come back if he continued to put his work with the church in first place. We spent quite a bit of time with him and prayed for him during and after the conference.

At the following conference he shared with us that his marriage had completely changed and been restored. He had returned home to his wife and they had gone through the discipleship material together, healing and forgiving and making huge changes in their lives and ministry.



He will be one of the Cuban trainers at the next conference. He was a great help during this conference, filling in and co-teaching. Specifically he taught a group during the lunch hour with those who came to the conference late to catch them up with the lessons! The greatest aspect of this story is that **his life and marriage have been restored!** Praise God!



This pastor from the last conference in Las Tunas in May, 2014, is discipling up to 70 people with ONE DTI manual! He told us: "The vision of our church is planting churches. The discipleship training helps me to do that. It is so simple and it's so easy and practical which means that anybody can disciple another believer".

He explained the progression to plant churches: a cell group (similar to a home group) develops into a mission (church plant that meets in a house) and then grows to become a church. (They consider a church as being recognized by the authorities as a legal church entity.)

After the May conference he disciplined key leaders, who are now discipling the members of their cell groups. Since May they have started seven cell groups with about 10 members in each group. Each leader is discipling the others in the cell. (That means 70 people are in the discipling process!) In addition to these seven new Cell Groups, the Pastor also supervises 26 missions and four churches.

The amazing thing is all this discipling is taking place with just ONE DTI manual - the same manual the pastor received at the conference in May! The people are so hungry that they bring paper and pencil, and then write out the manual as they are discipling!

Great News! The church can now print the manuals in Havana for \$1.25 each. If you would like to donate to make these manuals available throughout the year—rather than just at conferences, please contact us as to how you can do that!

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Cuban DTI Trainers are planning to put on their own mini-conference in July 2015 in Santiago, where we were three years ago. There were many people who wanted to attend but space prevented them. This is an exciting first venture for our Cuban team to go “solo”! Pray for them.

The next “Equipping the Saints” conference is tentatively planned for November, 2015, in Bayamo, as there are many pastors and church leaders asking for their own conference. Stay tuned for future newsletters with information about these endeavors!



Pablo & Martha

Christmas Greetings from the Garcia's

It has been a wonderful year!

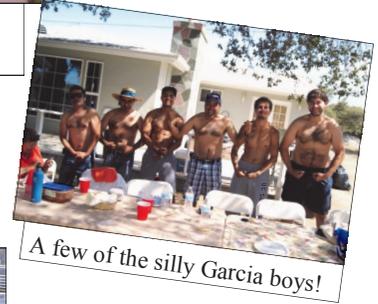
As we enter the holiday season, we look forward to the annual Christmas banquet with Pablo's men's group...to a week of visiting with the Huicholes before they return to Jalisco, to celebrations with the children from our mission's and Casa de Pan ministries...to an all night party bringing in the new year with the youth group...to piñatas, and pozole, tamales and champurrado, Stollen on Christmas morning and visits from friends... And in all of this—we remember the only TRUE reason for the decorations and music and joy of this season—is Jesus our...

Holy, holy, Holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.
Isaiah 6:1

Once a year we love to share a little of our family with you—and this year, in photos!



Our princess! (Just in case you didn't know!!)



A few of the silly Garcia boys!



Love!



Pablo and his baby sister!



The three Corbell girls!



Celebrating 30 years this month!



Best friends!



Martha's baby sissy and her baby Olivia visit from Idaho!



Run Pablo run!!