

Special Cuba Edition!
Read all about it!...

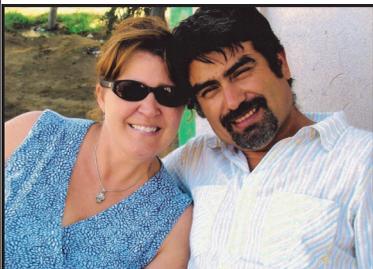
The Garcia Gazette

 Cuba para Cristo

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Link International
Ministries



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Sweet brothers and sisters, friends and family,

I have arrived back at home from Cuba and I thank you so much for both your prayers and financial support that made it possible for me to go on this 5th trip for teaching discipleship. This trip was held in the Holguin Province on the eastern side of the island. God is so good and He is in each detail of our lives.



Our trip was very successful - full of joy and challenges! We initially expected 250 to 300 pastors and leaders but for several different reasons beyond our control, our final count averaged 110-120 during the daytime sessions and 150-170 in the evening sessions. God knows the details and the "why's" even when we at first were tempted to feel disappointed. God is in every detail.

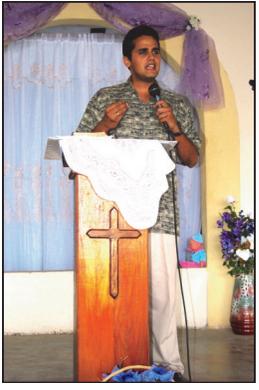
BE ASSURED
—
God is in the DETAILS

When we began taking the discipleship to Cuba, it was us "foreigners" who brought the teaching to them. When we came back, we heard amazing reports about the transformation that was beginning to happen in the churches. People were no longer "coming in one door and exiting through the other." Instead, they were coming in, taken under the wing of a strong believer and nurtured in their "baby" walk with the Lord and began growing strong and firm and reproducing...leading others to Christ and walking with others through discipleship.

Some key leaders throughout the different provinces then came alongside us as facilitators / co-teachers for the following conferences. The last conference in Santiago de Cuba; those co-teachers were our assistants. This trip, Frank



led the general sessions and I translated but when we came to the breakout groups - the roles reversed! The Cuban trainers led the breakout groups and we assisted them! Josué, one of the Cuban DTI trainers led a general session teaching "facilitation."



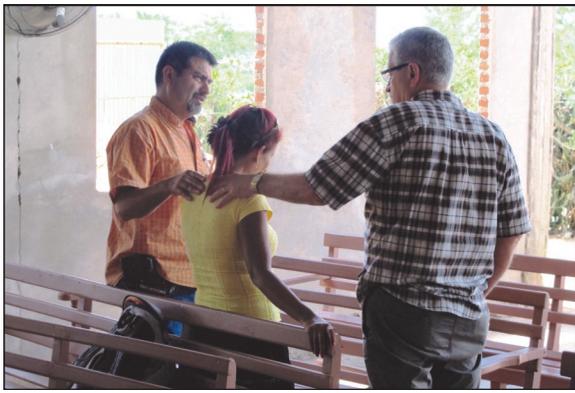
I was not part of a breakout group this time; instead I had the privilege of working alongside Pastor Tom Chism, from Vineyard Church in Reno, as his translator for pastoral counseling. In between the conferences and during free times, we "set-up shop" in a corner and we met with pastors individually. We were truly kindred spirits and in his words: "I don't know how we lived without each other!!"

I would like to share a couple stories with you... One day before the end of the conference, a woman approached us and asked if she could get some counsel. She began to talk and share with us that she had been at another discipleship conference in 2009 and had been in my class. She had been so excited and had begun discipling and sharing Jesus. Since then she had fallen away from the Lord and after about 2 years began attending church again. What was still lacking was any



Cuban DTI Trainers

freedom or joy that she had had before falling away and the desire to share Christ with others or disciple. She asked us to pray for her.



We began to pray and as Pastor Tom was praying, the Lord showed him that He wanted to give her physical healing also. Pastor Tom asked her what physical issues she had and she shared that she had herniated disks in her neck and a slipped disk in her back and needed an operation. We continued to pray and she began to cry. As soon as we finished praying, another person came for counsel and we spent time with that person and then left for the hotel.

When we returned to the conference, this precious sister came up to me and told me that the Lord had healed her when we had prayed and that she wanted to share with everyone what God had done! As she shared, we heard her explain that before that day she had not been able to lift even five pounds and after we prayed with her, her back and neck were completely transformed. That day she had carried her suitcase and walked normally. She had lifted and held a baby... She was healed from the inside out! Her joy had returned. She shared publicly so that all would hear of God's mercies towards her and celebrate!

~ God is good. ~
~ He is in the details of our lives. ~



Another story that touched my heart is of a man named Don Tomas that Frank Meitz found while searching for geocaches in Cuba. After the conference was over we spent two days in Guardalavaca, on the coast in Holguin province. We found his son Adrian driving the buggy where the geocache was hidden and he explained that his father's carriage had been in an accident a month before. The people in the carriage had been gravely hurt and Tomas had broken his hip and was at home in recovery. We asked Adrian if Pastor Tom could pray for Tomas so Adrian took

us in the carriage to see his father at his house about one mile away.



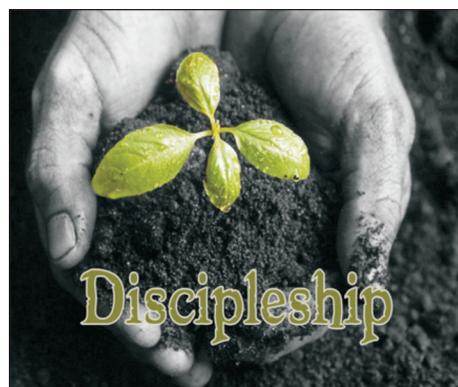
After praying for healing, our Cuban host Frank Martinez asked Tomas if he knew Jesus. He told us that he had been recently reading the Bible and he was investigating religion. Frank shared with him that it was no mistake or coincidence that Frank Meitz had found him over the internet and that this day had been ordained by God that our group of Americans, Mexicans and Cubans were sitting together in his house sharing about Jesus. I shared with him some of my testimony and how God has a purpose for my life...how I had searched different religions (like he was doing) but someone challenged me to not just search religions but to search the person of Jesus Christ. After that, Frank Martinez asked Don Tomas if he wanted to give his life to Jesus and he said "yes." Together we prayed and he cried as he received Jesus in his heart.

Then we prayed for his family and Adrian drove us back to our hotel. I asked him how he felt about everything that had happened. He was very happy and touched by our time together. I asked him if I could pray specifically for him and he said yes. We prayed together as Frank Meitz retrieved a DTI discipleship manual and he gave it to him and explained that he and his father could study it together so that they could grow in their faith.

Please pray for Don Tomas; that he would continue to heal, and for them both; that the love of the Lord would grow in their hearts and that the Lord would use them and bless their carriage business.



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Please also continue to pray for the words that were sown in the Cuban pastors' and leaders'

hearts - that their churches and missions would grow in spiritual maturity.



Pablo & Martha