

An Outstanding Youth Congress

We arrived in Cuba on February 23, prepared for 8 busy days of ministry.

The week began in Santa Clara as 108 young adults arrived from across Cuba for 3 intensive days of study and challenge from the Word of God. Brian led them to think deeply about their identity in Christ and His call for them to be disciples.

The weekend began with intensive prayer on the Friday night as the youth began to arrive from their various locations. Travel is difficult and time consuming in Cuba. Some came on the back of a dump truck, some caught one of the slow moving 1940 era trains, and some came by Cuban bus, which is really a 1950 era 5-ton box truck with windows cut out of the side. The accommodations were either the floor



of one of the storage sheds at our training centre or the floor of one of the believer's houses in Santa Clara. All the meals were prepared on three truck tire rims filled with charcoal.

Brian taught three 2-hour sessions on Saturday and one 2-hour session on Sunday morning.

Everyone took notes and really engaged with the biblical material. In the evenings, many either prayed or spread out to various parts of the city to witness to their faith in Christ.

The weekend ended with prayer, dedication and a 1 pm meal. Almost everyone was gone by 3 pm to head back to their homes for school or university on

Monday morning. We have been asked to plan another conference for next year during the Cuban study break in April. The schedule would look a little different. We would do intensive Bible study in the

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mornings, door-to-door evangelism in the afternoons and hold gospel rallies at night.

It was so exciting to experience these Youth, who were so hungry to be taught the Word of God and so passionate to reach Cuba for Christ.

Our Canadian/Cuban hybrid sheep herd is multiplying and doing very well. Pray for the continued health and growth of this little herd as it helps support the needs and the growth of the churches in the Cabiguan area.



We drove through three provinces, visiting church planters and house churches, crammed in the back of a tiny 1964 Russian Moskvitch. The Lord was gracious as the car didn't break down until after we finished our trip.



Two New Orchards Planned



Tucked away along a back road in Villa Clara Province, we found the only Nursery in Central Cuba. After talking with

the caretaker, he agreed to allow us to purchase 450 fruit trees. An orchard of mango, guava and papaya will be planted at the small farm in Santa Clara and an orchard of guava, papaya and mamey will be planted at the property in Placetas, replacing the banana plants that Hurricane Irma destroyed.

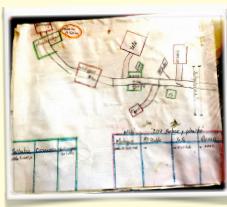
Visiting a New Ministry Family

The church in Cuba continues to expand as revival fires keep burning. One of the joys we



have each time we travel to Cuba is to meet with new church planters. As we headed out on our

'road-trip,' we first stopped in the middle of the beautiful Escambray Mountains to visit with one of the newest church planting families. Yosbel, Lilliana and their two children have just begun their ministry in this remote area. Even though we had never met they welcomed us as family. Because they are very poor, Yosbel apologized for not being able to provide the kind of lunch he wanted. He said he rose early that morning to ask the Lord what he could serve us. He then took us to the kitchen and presented us with fresh coconuts and *arroz con leche* (rice pudding). It just so happens that Linda's favourite treat is coconut water and Brian's is rice pudding. I guess he heard from the Lord.



A good friend recently tweeted,
"New opportunities require increased capacity. Increased capacity requires partnerships." Your partnership with AFC Canada is what God is using to continue the acceleration of the Gospel throughout Cuba. The work is growing and there are new house churches starting each month. Because of this, there are several immediate projects that we are seeking to undertake that we believe will continue to encourage the growth of the church planting work in Cuba.

There is a need for a bunkhouse that will sleep 40 people on the farm/training centre in the city of Santa Clara. The house will be built on the side yard and will have two or three bunk rooms with a bathroom. This will address an urgent need. This is the busiest training center, hosting conferences as well as training for church planters. The bunkhouse will allow all attendees to have a cot to sleep on rather than the floor of the storage shed. The completion of the bunkhouse will cost **\$8,000.00** and the building of the bunkbeds will be an additional **\$1,000.00**.

unreached towns and villages within 50 kilometres of his house. Each week, he takes three days and walks or hitches a ride on a dump truck to one of these villages for door-to-door evangelism. In less than 5 months, he already has three more house groups started and two more villages to visit.

Strategic Partnerships Continue to Help the Church Grow



Enjoying a very rough and bumpy 3 kilometre ride from the main road to the farm in Cabiguan to see the sheep herd and encourage the family.

There is a need for an outside shelter at the house church in Placetas. This has been one of the fastest growing church plants and the amount of people that are now attending has outgrown Pastor Andres' living room. An outside shelter that would house 50 people would cost **\$3,000.00**.



Brian surveying the layout of the bunkhouse

There is a need to complete the bathroom and a small kitchen area at our second largest training centre in Guayacanes. This centre is mainly used for pastor's seminars, youth worker training and church leadership training. The bathroom and kitchen area will allow them to plan for full day training as opposed to just a few hours at a time. The cost to complete this will be **\$1,350.00**.

There is a need to repair the roof of the sheep shelter at the farm in Cabiguan. Hurricane Irma left the roof in shreds. To replace some of the broken wooden rafters, purchase new zinc roofing, and repair the protective wire cage around the sheep enclosure will cost **\$5,850.00**.