



### Sister Churches in Cuba

The Methodist Movement began in Cuba nearly 125 years ago. Men and women from Florida arrived in Cuba in 1883 with the vision and passion of peaching the Gospel. They founded the Methodist Church and it grew until, in 1959, it was the largest denomination in Cuba. However, the 60s and 70s many people left Cuba or left the church. Then, during the late 1980s the fire of the Methodist church was rekindled in a powerful dynamic. This fire has produced a prophetic movement across the Island.

Today, in the Methodist Church in Cuba, seventy percent of the total membership is 30 years of age or less. More than ninety percent of the membership today entered the church since 1990. Today the Methodist Church has more than 120 church sanctuaries and more than 700 mission churches with a pastoral staff of 244, full membership of nearly 20,000, and more than 30,000 in the family of the church.

“Methodists United in Prayer” facilitates prayer, love, exchange, and mutual support between the Cuba Methodist Church and the Florida Conference. We hope to increase the relationship between sister churches in Florida and Cuba with the following priorities:

- ◆ To **pray** for one another and develop a common study of Scriptures.
- ◆ To **engage** in the interchange of people at Cuba and Florida Conferences.
- ◆ To **respond** to the priorities of the Methodist Church in Cuba.
- ◆ To **build** relationships between the Florida Conference and the Methodist Church in Cuba for mutual support and encouragement.
- ◆ To **enable** the training of pastors and lay people for the equipping of Cuban disciples.
- ◆ To **mutually share** the history, current events, culture, and spirituality of both Conferences.

Prior to Fidel Castro coming into power the country of Cuba was part of the Florida Conference. The pastors of Cuba would travel to the United States to participate in the Annual Conference. Out of the change came Methodist United in Prayer between the two countries.



**90 Miles from the US.....but, a world away!**

In 2007 EUMC adopted their first sister church located in Alcala. The South West District has sister churches in the Holguin Norte District of Cuba. There are 34 churches in the district, 6 are in need of a sister church. In 2010 the second sister church, Entroque Rey, was adopted by EUMC. Entroque Rey is a house church until the church is built. This was a rented property. Through the EUMC Mission Committee the house and land was purchased for \$2,000. It may take several years to complete.



**Pastor Yovanis and family at Entroque Rey Methodist Church**



**Alcala Church in 2007**



**Future home of the Entroque Rey Methodist Church**



**Alcala Church in 2013**



**Travelers from EUMC visiting Cuba.**

**Dan Christopherson, Bogie Korszen and Nancy Prins are enjoying fellowship with Pastor Cuba and his wife during a visit in 2012.**



## How Does EUMC Mission Committee Help?

- ◆ Pay the pastor's salary of \$22 per month.
- ◆ Have a food program for the children on Sunday that attend church. Sometimes the entire congregation is fed.
- ◆ Help repair/construct their church. Many of the churches/house churches are in great need of repair
- ◆ Take items to the sister church that are needed such as: over the counter medicines, Spanish Bibles, Sunday school items, craft materials, personal hygiene items (toothpaste, tooth brushes, bath soap, razors, etc.)
- ◆ Special items: musical instruments, cell phones, computers.....and much more.

You say, "why only \$22 for the salary?" That is the amount that all Cubans are paid....it doesn't matter what the profession.

Why a food program? The people of Cuba have a ration program that is very limited. Rice, black beans, oil, sugar and a few other items. They usually run out of food by the mid part of the month. By providing them with a meal it fills the stomach and the soul.

They do not have the financial means to make purchases for anything extra....so when traveling to visit the churches as many items as possible are taken to try and help the people.

**Life in Cuba is difficult!**

The Cuban people have a deep love for Jesus Christ and praising Him with music. Many musical instruments have been delivered to the sister churches in the district. Many of the instruments have been donated to the program.



**Keyboard given to the Entroque Rey Methodist Church.**



**Waiting to have luggage weighed to go to Cuba.....**

**Going to Cuba is a life changing trip.**

**Dan Christopherson**

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