

SW DISTRICT CUBA CONNECTION

by Dan Christopherson, SW District Cuba Coordinator
941-468-7209

2016 Report

Below you can see the activities and accomplishments in the past year. I give all the credit to our Lord Jesus Christ, plus God loving individuals through out the United States that have blessed us with their prayers and financial support. Thank you so much.

New Sister Church Relationships:

First Cape Coral UMC; *Iglesia Banes Church*
Pine Level UMC Arcadia; *Iglesia Bijaru Church*
North Naples UMC; *Iglesia Le Esperanze Church*
Beach Fort Myers UMC; *Iglesia Carreterita Church, Guantanamo District*
St. John Sebring UMC; *Iglesia Santa Maria, Guantanamo District*

Reconnected Relationships: *None*

Lost Relationships: *None*

General Information on the District:

Number of churches in Holguin Norte District; 43
Number of new churches 2016; 3
Number of Cuban churches with a sister church; 33
Number churches in the Southwest District; 65
Total Number of travelers that went to Cuba in 2016; 22
Number on Youth Trip; 5
Number of first time travelers to Cuba; 14
Number of churches represented in the travelers; 8
First non-alliance trip taken in March
Non-alliance travelers that went to Cuba; 3
First out of state presentation; *Glenn Memorial UMC, Atlanta, GA*
Number of Cuban pastor visits to the United States; 7
District Superintendent Isel Acanda, Holguin Norte, visits; 4
District Superintendent Jose Ramon visits: 3

Adopt a Cuban Pastor: *We have ten pastors without a Sister Church in the Holguin Norte District but again this year all pastor salaries are paid in the Holguin Norte District through the Adopt a Pastor project. The Guantanamo District is different. We have fourteen pastors without salaries. Guantanamo has the most difficult conditions in Cuba. This would be a great place to bless a Cuban family.*

Bibles for Cuba: *More than 3,000 Bibles have been distributed in six different districts*

in Cuba; Holguin Norte, Guantanamo, Sancti Spiritus, Granma, Isla de la Juventud, Las Tunas and Pinar de Rio.

Bicycles Purchased: *20 bicycles purchased for Sancti Spiritus and the Holguin Norte Districts.*

Districts Visited: *I have traveled from the caves and tobacco fields in Pinar de Rio in the west to the mountaintops in Baracoa, Maisi in the Guantanamo District to the east. The only district that I have not been in is Isla de la Juventud off the western coast of Cuba.*

Water Purification Systems: *Twenty-six units delivered for churches in Holguin Norte, Holguin Central, Santiago de Cuba and the Havana District.*

Churches in the Holguin Norte District in need of a Water Purification System: *Twenty*

Larger Items taken to Sister Churches: *Some of the items that have been delivered; keyboards, sewing machines, guitars, electric guitar, drum heads, tambourines, laptop computers, tablets, cell phones, and cymbals.*

Foundation Funds Given: *The first funds dispersed from this account were distributed in the Guantanamo District to churches that had damage from Hurricane Matthew. Churches in Guantanamo, Baracoa, Maisi and Toa received funds to assist them to make repairs to their church. There are many heart wrenching situations in this district. \$5,000 was given out with the approval of the Southwest District Mission Program Board of Directors.*

New Youth Director: *Chris Sherrod, Faith Fort Myers UMC*

Reminder: Southwest District Meeting, January 12th at 7:00 p.m. at First Punta Gorda UMC, 507 West Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, FL 33950. Everyone that has an interest in Cuba should attend this meeting.

I wish you the best in the New Year and look forward to assisting you serve our Lord in Cuba in 2017.

Southwest District Mission Program, Inc.

Update On Meeting

CUBA

SO

CLOSE.....

BUT, A

WORLD

AWAY!

"Thank you," to everyone who attended the Southwest District Meeting January 12th, at First UMC of Punta Gorda. We are such a large district the best I can do is have the meeting near the middle of the district. It is not always convenient for everyone.....but, God sends who he wants!

We had a couple of announcements I want to make everyone aware of.

The Youth Coordinator for the Southwest District Mission Program is Christina Sherrod from Faith Fort Myers UMC. She will be leading all youth trips to Cuba. She hit the ground running with plans for a college age trip to Cuba in July 2017.

For information contact:
Christina Sherrod

www.missions2cuba.com

Email: JungleTraveler@aol.com

Secondly....We are proud to announce the launching of the Southwest District Mission Program, Inc. website at:

www.christforcuba.com

**Please feel free to link the above sites to
your church website.**

In Christ,

**Dan Christopherson
125 Treviso Court
North Venice, FL 34275
941-468-7209
dancc@comcast.net**

OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE
OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING
TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES
NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE
STATE." REGISTRATION #: CH47040

501(c)(3)

EIN: 38-3924452