

SW DISTRICT CUBA CONNECTION

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Lisy's Dream!

It was Lisy's dream always to come to the United States; being a Cuban that was more of a dream than reality could ever offer. In May 2017 that dream was about to come true. She heard all the stories from her husband Pastor Isel but surely that was not reality or was it?

Her first days were amazing, so many cars and new cars, large shining building, the roads were so smooth and so much food, this cannot be real? This was far better than she had expected or had been told. On one of her first church visitations she witnessed another unbelievable dream. Small impressionable babies and children being cared for at a church. This is not possible in Cuba but why not? We heard little children singing, "I love Jesus and Jesus loves me." As we move from room to room Lisy's mind is spinning like a top! This day ignited a spark that burned in her mind. But in Cuba dreams do not come true. Dreams come and go, yes somewhere over the rainbow where they get lost in the great abyss of lost and forgotten dreams that never come to reality.

When we left the church all she could talk about was having a "Preschool in Cuba." She mentioned, "I hear babies cry and can watch them grow, they'll learn much more than we'll know. Laughing and smiling children being taught, "Jesus loves me this I know." Why could this not be done in Cuba? I want to start a preschool in Mayari!

Just because it's never been done does not mean it cannot be done. it only means God is waiting for "you" to take the first step. Lisy is ready for this journey that God has placed before her.

The ideas are bouncing around in her mind; we have the rooms available, we need A/C, we need this, we need that, and we have no money. The Southwest District Mission Program, Inc. is not going to let this dream fade away. We have formed a brain trust of four ladies, retired teachers, school principals, women with preschool experience. Along with Lisy we have a very qualified woman, Lily Calzadilla, that has an back ground in education. Lily was a teacher for years before we pulled her away to work as a translator for our groups traveling to Cuba.

The comment has been made, "we are investing in Cuban children and they may very well be the first generation of Cubans to live and say 'we are free!' "

First item on our agenda was to meet with Bishop Pereira of the Methodist Church in Cuba to get his blessing on the project. The last week in August I had an appointment in Havana to present the project to Bishop Pereira. With much apprehension yet being very positive I looked forward to the meeting.

God has been paving the way all through this and a couple of days before our meeting Lisy had spoken with the Bishop. So our meeting was nothing more than an enthusiastic high five and, “yes, do it!”

I have told some of my Cuban friends here in the United States about this project. “You have this approved by the Bishop?” Nothing like this has been proposed or attempted for close to sixty years in Cuba. Sometimes being oblivious to time and difficulties play into your favor which this did for me.

Some of you have been approached already on this project but trust me everyone will be hearing and seeing much more as God brings “Lisy’s Dream” to reality.

For more information do not hesitate to email or call me.

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