

# **GULF COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*Experience – Embrace – Engage*

## **Team Cuba Meeting**

March 12, 2020

Attendees: Ray Dunfee, Mary Hilton, Jeanne Shrout, Becky Stephenson, Rick Starck, Linda Starck, John McGuire, Carol McGuire, Joan Priest, Harold Grafe.

John McGuire opened the meeting at 3:00 pm with the lighting of the Christ Candle and prayer.

Becky Stephenson and Joan Priest have just returned from Cuba and gave an update on our two sister churches and other ministries that are going on in Cuba

They took four suit cases full of supplies (40 lbs. of medicine) along with other items, three to Frank Pais and one to Nicaro. Both Joan and Becky will be reimbursed for taxes and duties. They also discovered that you can only take up to 70lbs. per case when travelling on a charter flight. Otherwise they had no problems getting through customs going and coming back.

### **NICARO:**

They have become a very active community and have between 25 to 50 people attending their different services, They, are also supporting an additional two missionaries which gives them a total of three. They have 14 individuals that come to prayer service every day. We will need to add to recurring expenses the additional two missionaries at a cost of \$15.00 for each per month.

The needs for Nicaro to finish the sanctuary is as follows:

Fans, Flooring, More Pews, Bathroom, and Steps leading up to the sanctuary.

Estimated cost to finish this project is around \$4,500.00

Laundry detergent, Zan-tac or other over the counter drug of that type, drums. The keyboard is working great and they have several individuals learning how to play it.

Pastor Reinaldo needs a new laptop. He could also use an updated cell phone, however, laptop is top priority.

An electric bike would also be appreciated at a cost of \$1,600.00.

\$100.00 was given to the church to use at their discretion.

They were very excited with all the gifts that were given to them by Becky and Joan.

### **FRANK PAIS REPORT:**

They are also growing very rapidly. They have between 80 – 120 in attendance at the main service. They are also supporting between 60 – 70 children in their kid's program. They have a girl that is 13 that is teaching their children's program along with doing some preaching. They also have several other programs that minister to the community during the week. They have also added two additional missionaries that they are supporting, which gives them a total of 5 that they support.

There was much discussion regarding the house that is for sale on the adjacent property. The asking price at the moment is \$10,00.00. However, the home owner does not have clear paperwork from the government to sell at this time. Will consider this project once paperwork is all in order.

The needs at Frank Pais are as follows:

New roof on the back building (used to be the main sanctuary) is needed. The estimated cost for this is around \$4,000.00.

\$600.00 was given to them by Joan and Becky, of which 100.00 went to their two new mission pastor's salaries. This should get them through August when the other missionary's salaries are due. They were very happy with the drum heads and other items that Becky and Joan gave them. It was like Christmas for them. Becky showed us the crafts that they had made for us. They will present these when they give their update to the congregation.

There was much discussion regarding the goods that we send to them. It needs to be made very clear that all funds and goods that are sent to both churches are for the church and not for the pastor and his family, with the exception of their laptops.

Discussion was held regarding Bibles. It was decided that we would send \$230.00 with Dan in April to buy additional Bibles at a cost of \$2.50 - \$3.00 each.

The water systems at both churches are installed and working which is great news.

We have paid for phone service for both pastors through October.

Pastor Reinaldo is still in seminary.

Pastor Siubel has completed his studies.

Mary Hilton stated that she had heard a concern that funds donated to support our church were being diverted to the Cuban churches. As members of Team Cuba, we are aware that all of the funds used to support our sister churches are specifically donated for that purpose, and no money is taken from the church's general fund or diverted from other outreach donations. Becky stated that when she and Joan give their presentation to the congregation on March 29<sup>th</sup>, she will make that clear.

Jeanne and John will review what the new recurring expenses are and report back to us on how much monies we have to meet these recurring needs.

Becky closed us with prayer at 4:45.