

# CUBA NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2011, ISSUE 2



*Telling the story of God's continuing work in the land of Cuba. The International Church Planting Center assists through training leaders by translating, contextualizing and conducting intensive modules in such a way that leaders train other leaders.*

*< Havana, population 2.5 million.*

## ASLAN ON THE MOVE IN CUBA

In *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, C.S. Lewis describes Narnia as a place that is always winter and never Christmas. At one point in the book, Narnia begins to thaw. The explanation is simple—Aslan is on the move!

I can tell you Christ is on the move in Cuba!

- In September Juan Carlos (Rabito), an Argentinian singer, was invited to conduct a concert in central Cuba. Where to hold it? Stadiums are not available for religious activities; parks cannot be used; church buildings are too small.

So the Los Pinos Christians said, “why can't we hold it outdoors on the farm on the Seminary campus?”

So permission from authorities was granted, a huge screen erected, amplifiers and mikes hooked up and cell phones began to buzz with invitations. All for one evening!

6,000 people from as far away as Havana (200 miles) descended on those 4 acres to hear the love of God sung and praised. By midnight they were back in their rustic “camiones” (trucks) heading home.

- A seminary student riding the train began sharing the gospel with his

neighbor. The two-hour discussion ended with a prayer to accept Jesus. As the student was leaving the new convert asked, “what do I do now?” “Take this Bible and manual, read it and do what it says,” the student hurriedly advised.

Eight months later the president of the work was traveling in eastern Cuba when his car broke down. He heard singing by the river below the road. “Please take me to your pastor,” he called out.

“I'm the pastor and was converted on the train. I've been doing what the Book says. Today we are baptizing 200 new converts!”

## PLACING LITERATURE IN THE HANDS OF NEW LEADERS

Since we cannot import Christian books, we are translating and printing literature in Cuba that meets the needs of emerging leaders. Works completed include “*Praying Seven Days with Jesus*,” by John Smed. This book guides persons to pray the Lord's prayer. “*How People Change*,” by Paul Tripp helps readers apply the gospel through repentance and faith.



## ITEMS FOR PRAYER

1. *Evangelism and outreach.* New leaders pursuing the harvest through relational evangelism need God's enabling.
2. *Prayer training.* 2000 copies of *7 Days Praying with Jesus* are being printed and distributed to leaders. Ask God for a prayer awakening that spreads from embers to a flame.
3. *Traveling safety.* All persons traveling with ICPC follow Treasury regulations and enter Cuba with religious visas. This process allows visitors to stay with Cuban families and minister in the churches.
4. *Training Centers.* Workshops for leaders are being held in Havana and Holguin, two cities at extreme ends of the island. Pray for leaders conducting this training that they will demonstrate in life what they are teaching.
4. *Financial support.* Pastors in Cuba are self supporting living below the world poverty level. ICPC raises funds to provide teaching materials free to leaders as well as pay for travel, room and board for 5-day workshops in Havana. Each workshop for 20 leaders costs \$3,000 US.

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## CONTACTING ICPC

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## PREACHING & TEACHING

Three to four times a year I travel to Cuba to encourage pastors in their mission. To be unobtrusive I go alone or with a key leader. We do a lot of listening, interacting, praying and some teaching.

Terry Gyger, from Redeemer City-to-City in New York, traveled with me in January. His keen understanding of overseas culture and missional strategy helped orient leaders in applying the gospel to their context. His message, the Key and the Towel (keys of the kingdom and servanthood) inspired many to utilize God's power with a humble, serving spirit.

## TRAINING THE TRAINER

In April of this year the Los Pinos church leadership inaugurated their non-formal training center (CenCap) in Havana. The goal is to hold four five-day workshops a year with 40 select leaders. These leaders are committed to train an additional 20 leaders with the same truths. We supply a video of the teaching as well as manuals.

The 800 newly trained leaders will then open two prayer cells or house churches each yielding 1600 new church plants—all in a two year period!

PRAY FOR THIS ENDEAVOR