

FamilyLife, Latin America – July 2011

OUR TRIP TO CUBA

From July 9-16 we had the opportunity to travel to the central and eastern area of Cuba for a wonderful ministry opportunity in the cities of Bayamo and Placetatas.



This trip was sponsored by "Doulos Partners" directed by David Johnson, and coordinated by World Link Ministries, directed by Manuel & Glenda Fernandez. These ministries support national efforts to plant churches and develop local leadership. The photo (below) shows the team meeting in Cancun before heading to Cuba.



From the left: Kelly Gorosky, Lev Bragg, Jerry Brittendall, Manuel Fernandez, Gary York, David Johnson, Arlyn Matheine and Vicki Bragg. The team presented a Vacation Bible School at the Baptist Church of Bayamo and did evangelism and baptisms in other churches.

We landed in Havana, and then traveled 7 hours to present a seminar in Placetatas for 25 couples. In the photo below, the couples are reading "The Love Letter", a project from the session: "God's Plan for Marriage." This session teaches couples the biblical principle: receive your spouse as a gift from God.



After a long overnight journey of 8 hours, we arrived in Bayamo. That afternoon, we started the seminar attended by over 100 couples. Below is a photo of the participants.



At the end of a session, participants renewed their wedding vows and signed a Unity Covenant. As a result of the presentations, 28 people received Christ, 77 renewed their commitment to God and their family, and 54 couples expressed their desire to participate in HomeBuilders small group studies. Glory to God!

Comments from seminar attendees:

"... God has heard our prayers, this seminar has made a great impact on our lives ..."

"God taught us how to bring our family through times of crisis in our marriage and with our children. Also how to help others..."

"This seminar has been God's answer to our prayers and the beginning of our ministry."

"I was motivated to rebuild damaged areas in my own family and the Lord has awakened in me the desire to help others rebuild damaged homes."



We met with pastors, missionaries and local leaders both in Bayamo and Placetatas.

They all were interested in developing a family ministry in their churches and communities.

Attendees: 29 leaders from 6 churches. These photos were taken at the meetings.



Dr. Lev Bragg and his wife Vicki traveled with the Doulos Partners team and also serve on the Advisory Board of FamilyLife. They were the instruments God used to fund the project and connect FamilyLife with Cuba. Thanks Lev and Vicki!

PLANNING FUTURE FAMILY MINISTRY IN CUBA

This visit confirmed once again, the great need to strengthen the Cuban family. We also saw how families are in crisis because they do not have resources to strengthen their homes with the biblical principles of marriage and family. Therefore, the Doulos Partners ministry is willing to organize similar trips in the future. The next trip would be to train HomeBuilders facilitators and eventually develop FamilyLife speakers on the island.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

We praise God for allowing us to join with Doulos Partners on this trip; the doors are now open for future training events.

Please pray for this project: that God would lead us as we plan to return to Cuba in February 2012 and hopefully train 500 pastors using the First Family First Seminar, as well as providing more training for HomeBuilders. Pray the Lord would provide the financial resources for travel and for printing materials.

With our gratitude for your involvement through your prayers and offerings for this Cuba project,

Leonel and Miriam Motta