

P.O. Box 160  
LaGrange, WY 82221  
Phone: (307) 223-9400

After returning from our Cuba missions trip, we found ourselves physically exhausted, but our hearts are still overwhelmed at the great experiences the Lord gave us while there.



Jim and Arline Parris' marriage presentation was much needed and appreciated.

We had multiple objectives going into two different locations on this island nation. Landing in Havana on Monday February 17 at 5 pm, and having learned some very hard lessons from the previous trip, we decided to spend the night in the capital city. On the following day, we took some pretty old-fashioned means of transportation into Santa Lucia and got off the car running. There we reconnected with special friends like Emilio, Odalis and Jimagua, Sulay and Aile and so many other great folks. I jumped into our discipleship lessons right away. Jim and Arline Parris shared some pretty solid material on marriage, encouraging couples on the art of communication. Kim Campbell presented

quite a significant exposition on how to deal with major traumas in life. Traumas are what most Cubans undergo with daily severe limitations, especially the believers. We also had a chance to baptize Mari, a brand new believer in Christ who was so excited to obey the Lord that after her baptism, she invited us all to a special meal at her home. From Santa Lucia, the Parris returned to Havana and from there back home,



Tip of Spear evangelistic group gets their second motorized vehicle. Their joy was exuberant and we celebrated with them.



while Kim, Mary and I pushed on into San Juan y Martinez for further ministry opportunities already awaiting us there. Lodging in our new town was a bit challenging to find, yes, even finding two small rooms was a major thing to acquire. Transportation is another adventure in Cuba, so we were very happy to find accommodations only a few blocks from church. On Saturday morning, all three of us joined Tip of Spear ministry group in doing personal evangelism. This activity is something that this group does every single Saturday

morning. Our Maranatha church in McAllen has been privileged in financially helping Tip of Spear purchase a motorized bicycle. This is greatly helping this 40 member strong group to be a bit more mobile. Additionally, our own Tentmakers Bible Mission has also come along with just over 22 hundred dollars to help in this special need. So, the Tip of Spear evangelistic group in San Juan y Martinez now has two 2 wheel motorized bikes and Emilio in Santa Lucia has about 50% toward his. We are so overjoyed at the special interest and burden that others have tangibly expressed on this urgent need. Thank you! Should you feel moved by the Lord to contribute to this special project, please feel free to contact me. These Cuban brothers and sisters are fully committed to the physical task of personal evangelism and church planting. Maybe we should also feel compelled to come alongside them and financially help them in take the gospel to their surrounding villages with better means of transportation. What say you?

We are currently planning to go once again in August, taking along two of our Maranatha church youngsters. This exposure is our practical plan to introduce these kids to missions as the Lord has so laid it on our hearts. I honestly feel that before my departure from this planet, I should earnestly seek to prepare the next generation to go from a "me" to a "them" mentality. Furthermore, we are also projecting a small

medical team for November of this same year. The major crisis on the most basic medical essentials is absolutely incredible. For example, there are many hospitals with absolutely NO syringes, surgical gloves, blood pressure meters and so many of the most fundamental medical needs. We were simply amazed at this great crisis and our very hearts were completely broken. Now our November trip is not only intended as a social help venture, but we seek to use the severe crisis on medicine and equipment, as a means to connect with the culture and expose them to the gospel. Please be in prayer for this.

Do you want to be a blessing in God's Kingdom in Communist Cuba? Just say where!

We have several options for your faith and financial investment - special transportation for rural pastors and missionaries, medicine and medical equipment, medical team, discipleship team, sponsoring one of our next two trips, etc.

As mentioned before, Mary and I had been contemplating the idea of taking a ministry break after our Cuba trip last month. Not only did TBM accept our proposed 3-month Sabbatical request, but also our own Maranatha church wholeheartedly agreed. We are so very happy for unanimity on this much-needed time to rest, rejuvenate, and reconnect with our 3 adult daughters, son-in-



These are some of the attendees to our discipleship classes.



Getting ready to do evangelism with Tip of Spear

law and our beautiful grandbaby. This will also give us the time to go to Panama and visit my mother-in-law, who just suffered a stroke. However, right before leaving McAllen, my own stepmother would reach the end of her own life. She died peacefully at age 97 on Sunday March 1. After her funeral, we left McAllen to start our Sabbatical three days after we had originally programmed. We currently find ourselves in Dallas, with Priscilla, her husband Brad and their almost 9 month old baby Oliver and Sylvia. From here we go back to San Antonio with Sarai and from there to Panama.

Please continue supporting us in prayer...

~ for our beloved Sarai, as her lupus and fibromyalgia continue to worsen, now especially affecting her kidneys. Are constant prayer is for God's peace in the midst of her physical storms.

~ for our Sabbatical time off from ministry, that God would give us wisdom on how to relax, reflect and reconnect with our 3 adult daughters. This is a first for us in over 31 continuous years in ministry.

~ for our finances during these three months off from ministry.

~ for Maranatha, as the leaders will have to learn how to step into new roles without us.

~ for Mary's mother in Panama.

By His Grace;

By His Glory!

*Franc & Mary Ortega*

*P O Box 6453  
McAllen, Texas 78502  
(956) 821-1248*