

Bienvenido! (This is the web version of the newsletter, the names of all people and places used here are aliases)

Welcome to the July and August bumper A3 newsletter for Cuba para Cristo. This newsletter hopes to keep our supporters in touch with the work of CpC. This month we've got more from exiting news of the latest developments of the **Moore Course** as well as news from **Richard Matthews** reflecting on his ministry in Cuba. There's also **an appeal for anyone who might be able to take some desperately needed books** over to Cuba (pictured below). For any feedback on the newsletter or articles that you would like included next month please contact the CpC exec at cubaparacristo@gmail.com

Latest from Rodrigo on the Moore Course:

Toledo area

It's really encouraging to see how the different churches have welcomed the Moore courses and how they are benefiting from them. The course here was held at the church in Almendares, where Rev. **Ricardo** is Pastor.

We now have 20 Tutors in Toledo area (remember we started with 13 Tutors in March) and they are very motivated.

Here is one comment from one of the Pastors attending the course: "We are enjoying this course in a wonderful way. I believe it is simple in its presentation, profound in its content, and didactic in its teaching. Thank you for giving us this opportunity". Rev. Marco Mani, Pastor of the Church of Getsemane, Regla.

Zaragoza

We have 12 Tutors here, We are co-ordinating things here with **Vice Principal Pastor Rafael Siempre** and we have to expect that our Tutors would start teaching

There is a potential of more than 100 people willing to start with the courses in the local churches (Villa Clara Province)

Pastor Ganjé (Principal) comments: *"We are delighted to offer the Moore College courses as part of our Seminary's scheme for Training Pastors and Misioneros in Cuba, working in partnership with Cuba para Cristo. Training the Trainers is our vision for Cuba today because it provides the theological basis for teaching and preaching the word of God in our churches".*

Ayacucho

We are working with the Seminary of the Estern Convention and in Partnership with the new Principal **Pastor Francis Fuerza** who is fully supportive of the Moore Courses. He and **Mari Equipo** (She co-ordinates the Misioneros programme for the Convention) have done a selection of Pastors and lay leaders (some of them Misioneros supported by CpC) which have attended the first module (Introducción a la Biblia).

Here is also great potential as we now have a group of 13 Tutors very committed with the courses and willing to now teach this first Module in their local Churches (another 100).

Pastor Francis (Principal) comments:

"We give thanks for the long standing partnership we have had with Cuba para Cristo over the years and we welcome this new training project using the Moore College courses that seeks to provide training to local Pastors and Misioneros among us. It provides precisely the kind of training we needed. Please continue to help us in this way".

Prayer Praise points

- Sadly **Roberto Sanchez** was not able to come for the 'Training For Trainers' at Cornhill Summer School as the authorities denied him permission to leave the country at the last minute. However the following week his wife gave birth so it seems as though things worked out for the best! Please pray for the whole family at this exciting time.

- **Lino Miguel** (pictured right) did enjoy a very successful time on the course and thanked everyone who made his stay so enjoyable. He returned safely to Cuba at the beginning of August to his thankful family saying he had been encouraged and inspired.

Appeal

In this photo of Lino in the UK He is sitting next to a pile of six boxes which are new, Spanish Christian books - for libraries in the seminaries we support, and for pastors. **We need people to take them!** Please pray we would be contacted by people who are willing to take these books to Cuba - so they can be used to build and strengthen the church there

- The Latin link Step team (short term mission team) have been enjoying a successful time in Cuba. Amongst other things they have painted a seminary, a church and worked hard helping out on a Christian youth summer camp. Please give thanks that they are being able to enjoy and learn from this amazing experience.



Do you know anyone travelling to Cuba who could take some books?

Missionary Watch

Each month we look at the lives of one of the missionaries or pastors supported by CpC. This month **Richard Matthews** writes:

"I am writing this having recently returned from an 18 month placement at the Seminario Teologico Bautista de Ayacucho, where I was sent as part of the Latin Link Stride Programme.

The initial plan was to teach the students English, so that they could have access to resources, but by the grace of God I ended up doing so much more than that as teaching took second place to spending time with the students, visiting places where they are working (from big city churches to small rural churches meeting in the front room). It was such a privilege to be able to spend so much time travelling around Eastern Cuba and seeing the things that God is doing and how the students and pastors are spreading the word of God across the island.

One of my favourite memories came towards the end of my time in Cuba where I was invited to speak at a weekend retreat in Caracas with the youth group of the 1ra Iglesia Bautista de Cuenca. I was asked to speak on the subject of drawing closer to God and yes they certainly did do that. At the final talk on the beach on the Sunday morning many of the young people responded to the challenge and it was so amazing to see them rededicating their lives to God. Despite some of the logistical problems (leaving all the meat behind in Cuenca and the camion breaking down en route, so we finally arrived 4 hours later than planned) it was a wonderful weekend in such beautiful surroundings and one that will not be forgotten.

The Church in Cuba continues to grow despite the lack of resources and I was constantly amazed by the Christians willingness to evangelise in whatever situation and how they cope in some of the harsh circumstances – almost half the students in the seminary don't have a fridge in their house – despite the hot humid summer temperatures. Despite this their hospitality was fantastic and wherever I went I was welcomed with open arms – they were always willing to listen and talk about their lives, their faith and their struggles.

Two things struck me and will remain with me on my return to the UK. The first was a sign on a door on my second day there that said 'no salga sin orar' (don't leave without praying) and I realised how much they pray when compared to us. My prayer life certainly improved and I now understand more the instruction of Paul 'to pray in the Spirit on all occasions'. The second was their faith and how much they rely on God – often out of necessity. Seeing their faith in action time and time again made me realise how weak my faith was and how much I needed to depend on God.

I will close by saying the Cuba has touched my heart – both spiritually and emotionally (I met my future wife whilst out there) and have many precious memories that will stay with me for a long time."



Richard Matthews and his fiancé