



God's Hand at Work

The middle of October found former GCI board member Dan Clark and myself boarding a plane bound for the eastern end of the nation of Cuba. This trip marked the 28th country and 75th city in which Grace Community International has ministered since its founding in 2000. How we praise God for faithful support partners such as yourself whose prayers and gifts God continues to use to expand our reach - now further into the Spanish-speaking world! Read on to find out more about how God's hand worked through your prayers during the 10 days we spent ministering to local pastors and their congregations in Holguin Province, Cuba.

Like channels of water

We asked you to pray Proverbs 21:1 over our entry into Cuba, knowing that *the king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes.* God answered these prayers of yours in three miraculous ways:

- Prior to our departure for Cuba, officials informed us that our religious teachers visa applications were denied but that we could still enter the country for "cultural exchange." This meant that we could minister to pastors in their homes but not

hold large group meetings. However, upon scanning my passport in Houston, we discovered that I had, indeed, been granted a religious teachers visa so the pastors conference could move forward as previously planned!

- We brought with us four suitcases filled with Bibles and Bible study resources to give to national pastors and their wives. Not only were all four suitcases admitted into the country, customs didn't require us to open or unload a single one!
- At passport control in Cuba, officials possess the power to deny you entry into the country as well as limit your travel or activities. Despite extensive questioning, by your prayers no such restrictions were placed upon us!



Build up one another

Additionally, we requested that you pray 1 Thessalonians 5:11 for our ministry in Cuba, keeping in mind our call to *encourage one another and build up one another, just as [we] also are doing* for pastors around the globe. God answered this second set of your prayers in three providential ways:

- Despite a lack of fuel in the province, 50 Baptist pastors traveled miles by foot, horse, and cart to attend the Pastors Equipping Conference. This number is significant because it is the maximum number of people allowed by law to publicly gather - so God packed the church!
- In addition to this ministry to church leaders, we led two lay persons in making a confession of faith and prayed over a couple who desired to re-dedicate their marriage to Christ!
- Finally, the couple who ran the guest house in which we stayed was so touched by our behavior and prayers for their health that they asked to join the church that hosted the conference!





Join us in praying for Cuban pastors this week!



To continue to bear fruit for the Lord

"Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me." (John 15:4)



For faithfulness in leading their churches

"preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction" (2 Timothy 4:2)



For boldness in preaching the gospel

"and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel," (Ephesians 6:19)



For safety and stability

"First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity." (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

You make a difference!

Throughout our time in Cuba, the evil one sought to discourage us - from fuel shortages to interactions with government officials to physical exhaustion. However, by the sustaining power of your prayers, God empowered us to boldly and unashamedly preach the Word of God and stand as testimonies of His great love for the Cuban people. By your generosity, we freely distributed more than 450 Bibles and Bible study aids to national pastors, lay leaders, and their wives. And by God's grace, we will rejoice together one day in Heaven over His faithful provision among His people!

As a side note, you can keep up-to-date with the latest ministry happenings by following us on [Facebook](#) (@gciweb). Additionally, you can donate towards our ministry either by mailing a check to the address at the bottom of this update or clicking on the "Donate" button below. Lastly, sermons from our recent trip to Nigeria continue to be posted online and can be listened to or downloaded on our [Sermonaudio webpage](#).

In one week, Eleanor and I depart for our latest ministry trip to South Africa (look for our prayer timeline to be sent out next week). This trip marks our fourth country of service in as many months. During this busy season of travel, we lean on your prayers even more - to see us safely there and back, to strengthen our hands, and to embolden our tongues.

By His mercy,

Rev. John S. Mahon

2 Corinthians 4:1