



Sister Churches in Cuba

The Methodist Movement began in Cuba nearly 125 years ago. Men and women from Florida arrived in Cuba in 1883 with the vision and passion of peaching the Gospel. They founded the Methodist Church and it grew until, in 1959, it was the largest denomination in Cuba. However, the 60s and 70s many people left Cuba or left the church. Then, during the late 1980s the fire of the Methodist church was rekindled in a powerful dynamic. This fire has produced a prophetic movement across the Island.

Today, in the Methodist Church in Cuba, seventy percent of the total membership is 30 years of age or less. More than ninety percent of the membership today entered the church since 1990. Today the Methodist Church has 408 church sanctuaries and 1,103 mission churches with a pastoral staff of 800, and a full membership of nearly 43,141. In 2016 the Methodist Church had a 5.6% increase in membership.

“Methodists United in Prayer” facilitates prayer, love, exchange, and mutual support between the Cuba Methodist Church

and the Florida Conference. We hope to increase the relationship between sister churches in Florida and Cuba with the following priorities:

- ♦ To **pray** for one another and develop a common study of Scriptures.
- ♦ To **engage** in the interchange of people at Cuba and Florida Conferences.
- ♦ To **respond** to the priorities of the Methodist Church in Cuba.
- ♦ To **build** relationships between the Florida Conference and the Methodist Church in Cuba for mutual support and encouragement.
- ♦ To **enable** the training of pastors and lay people for the equipping of Cuban disciples.
- ♦ To **mutually share** the history, current events, culture, and spiritually of both Conferences.

Prior to Fidel Castro coming into power the country of Cuba was part of the Florida Conference. The pastors of Cuba would travel to the United States to participate in the Annual Conference. Out of the change came Methodist United in Prayer between the two countries.

90 Miles from the US.....but, a world away!



We work with churches in the Sancti Spiritus, Holguin and Guantamo Districts.

In 2007 EUMC adopted their first sister church located in Alcala. The South West District has sister churches in the Holguin Norte District of Cuba. There are 43 churches in the district, 6 are in need of a sister church. In 2010 the second sister church, Entronque Rey, was adopted by EUMC. Entronque Rey was a house church until the church was built. This was a rented property. Through the EUMC Mission Committee the house and land was purchased for \$2,000. The church was built in 2014. In 2014 EUMC adopted a church in the Sancti Spiritus District. Pastor Jose' Ramon is the pastor of this church and the District Superintendent. This is an area that had very little Methodist influence when he went to the district. It has grown tremendously under his great leadership and faith.



**Entronque Rey Methodist Church...
From a small house church to a sanctuary!
Church completed in 2014**



Alcala Church 2007



Alcala Church.....today!



**Sancti Spiritus Church
adopted in 2014 by EUMC**



Pastor Jose continues to build on to the church as his congregation increases.

How Does the EUMC Mission Committee Help Cuba?

- ◆ Pay the pastor's salary of \$25 per month. You say, "why only \$25 for the salary?" That is the amount that all Cubans are paid....it doesn't matter what the profession.
- ◆ Have a food program on Sunday for those that attend church. Why a food program? The people of Cuba have a ration program that is very limited. Rice, black beans, oil, sugar and a few other items. They usually run out of food by the mid part of the month. By providing them with a meal it fills the stomach and the soul.
- ◆ Help repair/construct their church. Many of the churches/house churches are in great need of repair.
- ◆ Take items to the sister church that are needed such as: over the counter medicines, Sunday school items, craft items, personal hygiene items (toothpaste, tooth brushes, bath soap, razors, etc.)
- ◆ Special items: musical instruments, cell phones, laptop computers (new and used) and bicycles for pastors.
- ◆ Water purification systems needed for most all of the churches in Cuba.

The people do not have the financial means to make purchases for anything extra....so when traveling to visit the churches as many items as possible are taken to try and help the people. Donations are always needed for the Cuba project.

Life in Cuba is difficult!

Keyboard given to the Entronque Rey Methodist Church.



The Cuban people have a deep love for Jesus Christ and praising Him with music. Many musical instruments have been delivered to the sister churches in the district. Many of the instruments have been donated to the program.



**Rural Cuba today!
Going to Cuba is a life changing trip.**

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