

# Partners in Prayer

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September 23, 2024

Dear Midtown Church Family,

How has your summer been? For us it has been a little different than usual. Since we are semi-retired we have spent a great deal of time camping and hiking. After a life time of weekends camping, it is strange getting used to the fact that we can go away during the week when there are fewer people camping. We can work on weekends, camp during the week.

In early summer we spent two weeks as campground hosts for Parks Canada, serving in Waterton Lakes National Park in the southern Alberta Rocky Mountains. We had a few hikes, but no canoeing. Park waters are closed to outside watercraft as they deal with problems with invasive species. In August we spent two and a half weeks camping in California and Oregon. We hiked and walked through long underground lava tubes in Lava Beds National Monument, then hiked in Jedediah Smith Redwoods Park, both in California. We finished with a few days along the coast in Newport, Oregon. Besides this, we camped in places nearer our home. A very relaxing summer.

Thank you for your prayers for Gary's trip to Cuba in June. It was a great time getting to better know the new president of Los Pinos Nuevos, Josué Villar Acosta and Seminary Rector, Jaisel Piñero. Gary knew both of these men, but not well. As Gary met with each one in June they talked extensively about current and future plans for both the denomination and the seminary system. Gary also took part in services in three churches.

The situation in Cuba is terrible. In the past two years over a million Cubans have fled their country. The average wage in pesos is about 2,500 per month. Unfortunately it's buying power is less than \$10 per month at current exchange rates. People are barely surviving. Many of the people Gary knows have left Cuba and are living in many other countries. The situation is desperate. The good news is that the Los Pinos Nuevos residence seminary is again open after a four year closure. With the absolutely horrendous economic situation, foreign funds, help from all of us, are need for purchasing food and other necessities for students. *Please lift in prayer Cuban Christians, churches and pastors, asking the Lord to sustain and use them.*



Gary and LPN President Josué Villar Acosta

There are two very important Cuba projects which need our prayers and financial help. First is assistance to the Los Pinos Nuevos Seminary and its many satellite teaching centres. Second, is help to purchase a new 15 passenger van which the denomination can use for events and for seminary needs. With an average monthly salary which works out to about \$10 in our currencies, it is almost impossible to live, and completely impossible to raise funds to purchase a van which costs \$40,000 US, or to operate a seminary system to train pastors and lay leaders. *Please ask the Lord to raise up donors who can help with these two needs. Ask the Lord if he would like you to*



*give a small amount to help with one of these projects.* If you would like to help we can give you more details.

For more, read the latest Cuba Report: [https://1drv.ms/b/s!AnHqS\\_TqpzuFggqSZdCP1YcxvAcPXA?e=iXTfcC](https://1drv.ms/b/s!AnHqS_TqpzuFggqSZdCP1YcxvAcPXA?e=iXTfcC)

In October Gary will oversee another round of World Team online courses. This time we will be offering our missionaries courses on discipleship and church formation. The courses are taken online, with students interacting in online forums each day with answers to questions and comments on each others ideas. Course facilitators, veteran World Team missionaries, then interact with students each day, asking questions about the comments made by students. It is an exciting way to learn. *Please pray that many of our missionaries sign up to take one of these courses in October, and pray for the work of the course facilitators as they interact with students.*

Years ago, as we camped and hiked, we had many spiritual conversations with people. As years passed, fewer and fewer people have wanted to talk about spiritual matters. This summer we had very few spiritual conversations with other campers. This says a great deal about how secular society has become, and how unwilling people are to talk about anything spiritual. *All of us need to ask the Lord to use us and lead us to hearts open to hear the gospel message.*

Gary's mom is now 98 years old. She has been very well until the end of August this year when she suddenly began to fail. The past few weeks she has slept most of the time. We know her desire is to be with the Lord so our prayer is that He will take her from us in his perfect timing.

As a gift to us, our children organized a family picture day. A photographer took pictures of all of us in multiple groups and settings. It was a beautiful day and we received many beautiful pictures.

Thank you for your prayers for us, for Cuba. We truly appreciate your being partners in ministry with us.

In Jesus' love,

*Gary & Sandra*  
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*Glorifying God by working together to establish reproducing churches focussing on the unreached peoples of the world.*