

Good Tidings

February 24, 2016

*Heart & Soul from Dan McClintock,
 PRBC Minister of Missions and Family Life*

COMING UP

Wednesday, February 24
 5:30p Wednesday Night Dinner
 and Activities featuring
 Cuba Mission Team Report

Thursday, February 25
 Noon: Lunch Bunch

Saturday, February 27
 PRBC Hosts Room in the Inn

Sunday, February 28
Youth Sunday
 9:30a Deacon Prayer
 9:45a Sunday School/Connection
 Group Meetings
 11:00a Worship

Tuesday, March 1
 10:00a Coffee and Kibitz

Wednesday, March 2
 5:30p Wednesday Night Dinner
 and Activities

Thursday, March 3
 7:00a Men's Bible Study

Sunday, March 6
 9:30a Deacon Prayer
 9:45a Sunday School/Connection
 Group Meetings
 11:00a Worship
 5:00p Youth Italian Night
 and Auction

Remembering
Our Friends at Home
 Lou Smith
 Carillon of Huntersville
 250 Commerce Center
 Huntersville, NC 28078
 704-230-3175

This year's Park Road Cuba Mission Trip was my third visit to Cuba in the past 7 years, and my second time with Park Road. Experience has taught me that no matter how well-planned, every trip to Cuba is an adventure full of surprises - a journey into the unexpected!

The excitement began a week before our departure with the discovery that 2 of our 9 travelers didn't have visas to enter Cuba. After investigation, I learned that they could be issued a tourist visa when we arrived at the Miami airport. This was perhaps the only change I noticed due to the normalization of relations between the U.S. and Cuba. And yes, their visas were delivered as promised! Whew - sigh of relief!

Arriving in line for the charter flight from Miami, we couldn't help but notice the mountains of luggage that each passenger plans to take on board. Among the items I saw were 2 bikes, several large TV's and a car fender, all secured in plastic wrap like the vast majority of the baggage.

I hoped the airline was paying attention to the weight of all of this cargo and, as it turned out, they were! About 20 passengers arrived in Cuba to find that their luggage had stayed in Miami, including 2 of our group: Tom Polaski and Patrick Bradey. In the U.S., delayed luggage usually proves to be a minor inconvenience. But this is Cuba! We waited 3 hours at the Havana airport and another 3 hours the following morning - and still no luggage!

Unfortunately, we had to hit the road without the luggage. And hitting the road in Cuba is an adventure in itself. The normally coveted front passenger seat is quickly abandoned for a rear-facing one in the back where the dangers of the highway can only be sensed and not seen. Traveling at high speed, the driver is forced to negotiate a plethora of giant potholes while sharing the road with tour buses, trucks, Chevys from the 'fifties, ox-carts, horse drawn carts, bicycles, pedestrians and vendors selling cheese by the side of the road!

After a stop at the seminary in Matanzas and at our place of lodging in Varadero, we were finally on our way to Carlos Rojas and Resurrection Baptist Church. As with every time we have arrived there, we were greeted that evening by the smiling faces of excited children on the front porch of the church, and the hugging began! The next two days included several worship gatherings, Sunday School, a baptism, meals shared in our hosts' homes and some light work in the church garden.

But being in Carlos Rojas is not so much about the agenda and the schedule (which is always on Cuba time, i.e., delayed). It's about the people. They are so warm and friendly and caring. And they treasure the relationship they have with Park Road and with so many of our members who have travelled there.

Lisa Oldham commented, "The people, especially the children, were amazing. Sharing our faith with them, even with the language gap, was a truly remarkable and moving experience." Margaret McIntyre observed, "It was amazing how happy the people are with so little. I came home and wanted to just clean out 'stuff' that we think we need but we don't."

Amazing, yes - and well worth the hassle of dealing with visas, lost luggage and Cuban highways!

It's about the people. They are so warm and friendly and caring.



Dan's first open-water baptism-
Are there really boa constrictors in Cuba?
Four adults were baptized on
Saturday afternoon.



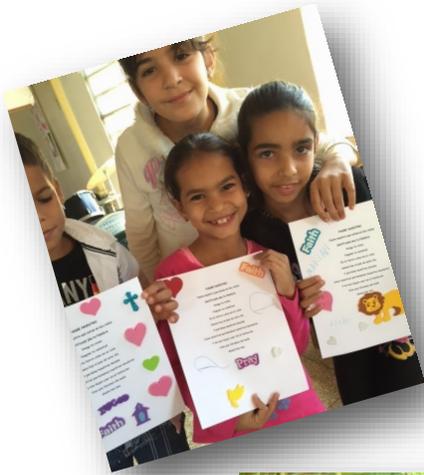
Rosemarie Burton with
Maricela Muriz, who grew up in
the church, and is now a
seminarian and the
church's interim pastor.



Our youth and the
Cuban children look
forward to a peaceful
future between
our two countries.



Noelia and Aballo hosted Peggy Pelton and her mother, Margaret, and Patrick Bradey (aka The Interpreter) for lunch. Noelia and Aballo, both deacons and among the founders of the church, need our prayers following the unexpected death of their son in January.



Lynn Turner, Peggy's sister, with a few of the niñas. You can always recognize a school teacher no matter the language and culture!

The Young Adult Connection Group has begun meeting again this year. They attended a lecture at Temple Beth-El and had a mini get-away to Banner Elk to snow tube at Hawk's Nest. The group will continue meeting and sharing dinner throughout the spring, discussing the Book of Amos and social justice .

Starting at 6:30p on
Tuesdays:

February 23
March 8
March, 22
April 5
April 19

Locations to be announced.



Park Road Baptist Church
3900 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28209

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Milford Dialogue Programs this Spring

The Milford Dialogue Team has been at work and has two exciting programs to announce for this spring. On Wednesday, March 16, Tom Hanchett, Consulting Historian with Levine Museum of the New South, will join us for a program entitled, "How Charlotte Got Segregated."

Segregation on the basis of race and income has been in the news a lot lately. It was the background of troubles in Ferguson and Baltimore last year. It is interwoven in debates about pupil assignment in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools today. How did Charlotte become segregated? Dr. Tom Hanchett joins us March 16 to explore that surprising history.

In April, a four-week series is planned, also for Wednesday nights. The series, called "Looking for Mercy" will focus on this word and the important concepts that emerge from it. The word and its meaning may be greatly overlooked in our society of individual rights and angry retributions.

The series begins on April 6, with a presentation by Dr. James Howell of Meyers Park Methodist Church. On April 13, we welcome Dr. Andy Baxter of the Southern Regional Education Board and on April 20, we will hear from Mark Cramer, long time member of Park Road and currently Executive Director of the Greater Gaston Development Corporation. The series will conclude April 27 with an open forum to discuss what we've learned and whether we need more or less mercy in church, politics and economics.

All programs are on Wednesday nights in the Community Center of Park Road Baptist Church. Dinner is available at 5:30p (please call the church office by noon Tuesday, to make a reservation: [704-523-5717](tel:704-523-5717)). The program begins at 6:30p, and all are welcome.

Monty Bennett
Director of Music and Organist

Brenda Casteen
Administrative Assistant

Russ and Amy Jacks
Pastors

Heather Gaskins
Child Development Center Director

Joey Haynes
Youth Coordinator

Bruce Holliday
Director of Communications

Cason Maccubbin
Financial Administrator

Dan McClintock
Minister of Missions and Family Life

Mallory Monroe
Children's Coordinator

Paul Owens
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Erin Rumble
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