

Lost Sheep Ministry News

January 2020—Cuba

The Great Commission: Matthew 28: 18 - 20 is a commission for *all* Christians to *go, make Disciples*, baptize them, and *teach* them to *OBEY* all that I have commanded. LSM is dedicated to evangelizing the lost and making Disciples of Christ that make Disciples of Christ according to II Timothy 2:2.



Notes from Pastor Bob:

I told a friend that the Lord impressed me to expand my borders during 2020. I had plans to return to Nicaragua but was trying to change for my first trip to Spain. I contacted him with notes and photos for this newsletter from Cuba instead. So my borders have now been expanded to include Cuba.

Cuba trip report: 18 January to 25 January 2020

Jimmy Stanfield and I flew from Houston International to Havana, Cuba. Prayers are appreciated

as we discover what our dear Holy Spirit has for us to accomplish with Him. We extend our many thanks to Marcos and Jairol in San Marcos, Nicaragua for introducing us to Pastor Roberto Fernandez in Cuba.

Sunday evening 1/19/2020: I'm tired but I will start writing before I forget. I am sitting here tonight asking God to send me another Rene and/or Dana. These ladies are so gifted writing the trip reports when they traveled with me.

I just remembered that Pastor Don and Char Owens of Community Church told me they were going to apply for passports while I'm in Cuba. PTL!

We left Houston at about 12:30 pm on Saturday.

It's only about a three-hour flight so it was an easy ride. It's interesting how you get the Cuba visa at the United ticket counter. It cost \$150 for Jimmy and me with no problems. We checked four bags and went to the United Club for about an hour. When we got to Cuba it took forever to get through immigration. Just very slow! Then another one and a half hours to get our luggage. Finally, we walked outside and saw Pastor Roberto with a sign with my name on it.

I thought we were going to be in Havana. Wrong. We travelled about three and a half hours with a stop for dinner to Santa Clara. We arrived at our Hotel about 9:30 pm and enjoyed a good night's sleep. We started the day at 9:00 am. We had a wonderful time at church where Jimmy and I both shared. The music was great, but the preaching was greater. Oops I need a little humility Lord.

The people swamped to the altar for prayer both after I shared and after Jimmy shared. It really was a wonderful time sharing this service with Cuban Christians.

Another thing I experienced at the service this morning reminded me of my family re-unions. You have to bring a towel with you to wipe the slobber off your cheeks from all the hugs and kisses. I was overjoyed to see the love demonstrated to me by these dear ones.



After lunch and a brief rest, we walked to visit in nearby homes. I visited a member of the church's home whose daughter was not saved. She is 43 years old and I discovered when we were visiting that she is a nurse. I told her that my wife Carol and daughter Elizabeth are nurses. I know your language I said. "Drink more water! Walk! "Wash your hands!" She laughed. But God. Oh, how I Love the but Gods'

She prayed to receive Christ with tears streaming. She shared a testimony which I videoed and will put on Facebook. When I asked her "how long has your mother been praying for your soul?" She answered "Forever!"

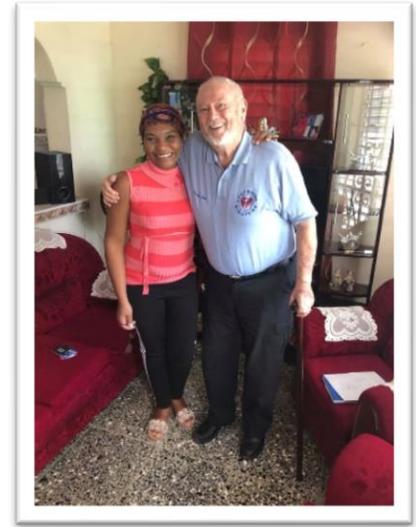
Jimmy was with another team and he also led a man to the Lord. It was a good day serving God in Cuba. Exalting the Savior, Equipping the Saints, Evangelizing the Lost. Thank you, Pastor John Morgan, for teaching me that while we were at Sagemont Church in Houston, TX.

Tonight, we visited three other pastor's homes to give them encouragement and invited them to join in some of our meetings. It really was a long day but a very rewarding day serving with the Holy Spirit in Santa Clara, Cuba.

Tuesday: Yesterday morning we again spent time with the church members giving them instruction and encouragement. In the afternoon we visited homes in the neighborhood. I really am having a hard time remembering yesterday afternoon because of the events in today's journey.

We accompanied Pastor Noel to a small village and went door to door sharing the gospel and encouraging the Christians there. Remember, there are no church buildings here in Cuba. All the churches meet in homes. In the morning I visited with a lady and her daughter. The lady was a Christian and her daughter was not. I guess the daughter was in her mid-40's. I shared the gospel, but she said she just could not pray now. She has too many issues in her life. Her father was a Christian and died last year. She loved him very much and she was daddy's girl. He gave her a Bible, but she hasn't read it yet. Anyway, we prayed for both of the ladies and left. Further down the street we visited another elderly lady who was saved but her husband who is 78 years old was not. Well, he is now as he prayed to received Christ and was so very happy and of course she was to. Then we went to another home. Noel told me the lady is a Christian, but the husband is not. He is a retired policeman and very mean! Well the Holy Spirit gave me the words and this mean cop got saved! Wow! I really love door to door evangelism.

In the afternoon we visited a meeting with about thirty-five church planters. Jimmy and I were used by God's Holy Spirit in a



mighty way and this was a monumental experience for me. Grand Master Al Garza from Faith City church in Texas shared a message on the Prayer of Jabez and I went home and really, really asked God to expand my borders again. He said to travel to a new country. Okay, I said I'll go to Spain. My plan but not God's plan. The planes to Spain filled up with no empty seats. At the same time, I received a

message from my friend Marcos in San Marcos, Nicaragua that he had a friend in Cuba, and we should travel there. I checked with United Airlines and there were 26 empty seats, so we travelled to Cuba. Today after taking a group photo with these men and women who are church planters in Cuba they gathered around Jimmy and me and we were on our knees when they laid hands on us and began to pray for us. The presence of the Holy Spirit was thick around us. And then the leader in prayer told me to look at him and he said “Pastor Bob, God has told me that He will expand your borders this year! This year will be the greatest year of your ministry. Yes, I was weeping and thanking God for Al’s message and how it changed my direction and my plans to again listen to God and walking in His path for my life.

I did learn from Noel that he had been to League City, Texas. Clear Creek Community Church has been sending teams to Cuba for many years now. That was good news. I don’t know what lies ahead for Jimmy and me here in Cuba, but tonight I am drinking from my saucer ‘cause my cup runneth over! Good night.

Wednesday 22 January 2020: We are resting after an awesome morning serving the Lord. We visited five homes and Jimmy and I had the privilege to lead five to the Lord ranging in age from 50 to 78. The new converts were all men and they had wives who are Christians. I don’t know who was happier the men or the women who saw God answer their prayers and witness their husbands praying to receive the Lord. Man, oh, man I do love door to door evangelism. Takes me back to my days at Bethany Baptist Church when I got saved.



After we left the homes God put the icing on the cake! We visited with five homeless drunks in the park. This reminded me of my days on the streets of Houston, TX when I started Lost Sheep Ministries and reached out to homeless veterans. I hugged them shared the gospel with them and witnessed again the power of God as these five drunks were weeping and praying at the same time as they received Christ as their Savior.

I asked our interpreter if we could purchase a meal for them with drinks. She asked the pastor who brought us there and he smiles and shows us the bags of food and drinks we had brought with us. I really and experiencing each day God’s blessing us over and over. But I really don’t like knowing what we are going to be doing each day. Of course, I want to be in control. But our

hosts are doing an awesome job directing our activities. So, I have decided to follow Jesus and all His saints here to lead us each day. I wonder what He has in store for us this Wednesday evening?

Thursday 1/23/20 3 pm (Siesta time): Last night was an awesome time serving the Lord here in Cuba. We went to a small gathering house church. Five men and six ladies attended. It really is hard for me to adequately share my feelings. Each one there introduced themselves and then shared their testimonies. Jimmy and I shared a Bible lesson with them and then we ended the time with about 30 minutes of praise.

This morning we began door to door evangelism again. I believe I had the opportunity to lead about 30 people in the sinner’s prayer in two different homes. And then I lead a man and his wife and neighbor to the Lord. He was 72 years old and I’m telling you he wept.

We meet with our host pastor, and he warned us that immigration had come to his home to check out what we were doing. Be careful he said because if we offend immigration, they can stamp “No Returns” on a passport.

I am planning on returning to Cuba in November for a large gathering of pastors and church leaders. We are conforming to the rules as we understand them so we should be okay. We spent some time with a Methodist pastor and his wife. They are both ordained pastors and it was wonderful to hear their testimonies. They are hosting us tonight with the youth group from their church and many others are coming because they heard I worked at NASA.

Friday 1/24/20: Last night was sharing with about 30 people at the Methodist home group church. I showed the “*Jesus film Through the Eyes of Children*”. We had a short discussion on the film. Then we had the Lord’s

table. We went outside and I took my long rope to share Wilkerson's Seven Events in Your Life; Eternity Past – Life (maybe 80 years) – Death (doorway to your destination) – Heaven –or Hell – Judgments in Heaven or Hell – Bema seat in heaven, an award ceremony, or the Great White Throne Judgment levels of punishment in hell.

This morning we spent more time with our host church in a leader's training program. After Jimmy and I shared encouraging words for them, we had a separate meeting with the Pastor and decided we should go home tomorrow (Saturday). We are making plans to join two pastors from Cuba in Nicaragua in February and returning to Cuba in October to present instructions to a group of Cuban pastors (church planters).

I asked those in attendance to share with Jimmy and me their favorite Bible verse. Here they are from AMPC Bible:

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. [Pro_6:23]

Joshua 1:9 Have not I commanded you? Be strong, vigorous, and very courageous. Be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Philippians 4:13 I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency].

Luke 10:42 There is need of only one or but a few things. Mary has chosen the good portion [that which is to her advantage], which shall not be taken away from her.

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God Who said, Let light shine out of darkness, has shone in our hearts so as [to beam forth] the Light for the illumination of the knowledge of the majesty and glory of God [as it is manifest in the Person and is revealed] in the face of Jesus Christ (the Messiah). [Gen_1:3]

Acts 17:28 For in Him we live and move and have our being; as even some of your [own] poets have said, For we are also His offspring.

Isaiah 41:13 For I the Lord your God hold your right hand; I am the Lord, Who says to you, Fear not; I will help you!

1 Corinthians 1:27 [No] for God selected (deliberately chose) what in the world is foolish to put the wise to shame, and what the world calls weak to put the strong to shame.

Ephesians 2:4 But God--so rich is He in His mercy! Because of and in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love with which He loved us,

Exodus 3:14 And God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM and WHAT I AM, and I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE; and He said, You shall say this to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you!

I am really impressed by the love of these Cuban Christians for each other and now for me. I am being blessed daily here in Cuba. Thank you, Jesus,

I look forward to sharing with all at home how we determined to leave on Saturday and not on Monday as originally planned. Please keep praying for us here in Cuba!

NOTES from Jimmy:

Cuba, like all the nations that fell under the spell of communism, is a different kind of mission trip. The Cuban government recognizes several Christian denominations, but we were with Churches that were not officially recognized, also known as the underground church.

The good news from Cuba is that the church is alive and well and strong. They seem well taught, with conscientious pastors and leaders. They have to be strongly committed because of the pressure anyone from that culture faces when they come to Jesus in an officially atheist state. The result of this pressure from the rest of society is that only the most committed believers dare to meet in an unsanctioned church meeting. Preaching at one can result in arrest and jail.

This was really the first time I've ever preached in a church where I felt that every person present might be truly born again. This is kind of sad when you think about it because it implies that in other countries, like America, the congregations are made up of a mix of some truly born-again believers

and people who just kind of identify with the church and maybe even think they are saved but are not. This should be frightening to us. Jerry Falwell once told the story of the first time he ever preached in a church. He was a Bible College student and the pastor he served under told him he was preaching on

Sunday. He was nervous and so prayed and fasted throughout the week. On Sunday morning he lost his nervousness and it just flowed naturally or rather, supernaturally. An elderly woman on the front row came and told him afterwards that she had been in that church her whole life but his sermon that morning had made her realize that she was not really a Christian at all, she had never been born again by the Holy Spirit!

Pastor Bob was at his outgoing gospel proclaiming best as we knocked on doors and visited people in homes. We visited some who were poor, some who were sick and dying and some who were fairly well off by Cuban standards, encouraging, praying with, and proclaiming the good news. Many people prayed to receive the forgiveness of their sins and we were well received even though it was not, strictly speaking legal for us to preach the gospel there.

We were blessed to have preached and encouraged a group of church planters who were so grateful for us coming there and midweek we hid together with 25 or so Christians behind some hastily thrown up sheets in a barn where we watched the Jesus film with them in hiding for fear of being seen by authorities. Can you imagine American Christians having to do that? Jesus said that if they hated Him, they would hate his people also so we should not be surprised by this even though it is foreign to us.

So, this trip pretty much covered all that we can do in only a week or so. We preached in the churches, in the homes and in the streets and found a people hungry to hear more.

Communism was the god of much of humanity for much of the 20th century and is now pretty much discredited everywhere except a few holdouts, Cuba being one of them. But even in this last stronghold of Marx we found that the people, even the unsaved are not dogmatic atheists but seemed mostly open to the great truth of the gospel and I can see that there will be a revival in Cuba, it is only a question of when.

On our last day, just before we left our hotel, I noticed an idol complete with offerings of coins before it. It was some Catholic saint mixed with African beliefs syncretism that is not uncommon throughout the Caribbean. I went to the lady that runs the hotel and gave her all of the cartoon gospel tracts we had left that Pastor Bob had given me and she was so grateful that I feel hopeful that she will not only read them in faith but come to a saving knowledge of Jesus. Please pray for her. Her name is Sylvia. We are supposed to go back this year so hopefully we can bring back a good report of her!

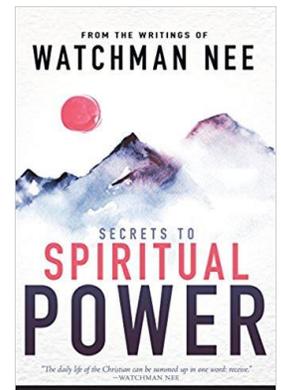
Jimmy

Recommended Reading: *Secret to Spiritual Power:* by Watchman Nee. Watchman Nee experienced such a close intimacy with the Lord that many remarkable insights into triumphant Christian living were revealed to him by the Holy Spirit. Now these truths are available to you so that you can have the same kind of vibrant relationship with God. This collection of Watchman Nee's time-tested words of wisdom will inspire you to...

- Enjoy all that is yours in Christ
- Know for sure that you are saved
- Overcome adversity and Satan's power
- Receive guidance from the Holy Spirit
- Find daily strength for daily needs
- See the truths of the Bible come alive
- Have faith that moves mountains

You will be set free from all sin and bondage as you discover not only that Christ is your salvation, but also that He is your sanctification. In fact, Christ will be to you all that you need--your victory, your power, your life. God will pour out His blessings to you in Christ. You can receive His powerful provision today!

Tax Deductible Donations to LSM: Lost Sheep Ministries is a 501(c) non-profit organization. Donations may be made to LSM, 2951 Marina Bay Drive, Suite 130-144, League City, TX 77573. We seek funds to travel, equip, and commission others to take the Gospel of Christ to all nations.



Note: All of our Newsletters and Power point discipleship presentations along with student manuals are available free from our web: www.lostsheepministries.com

Also, check out our website, equippingstudents.com.