

My latest Cuban trip was unique from the start! Pick up at Holguin airport was the beginning of wonderful team building and ministry. Action's Eastern Cuba coordinators Ayan and LitSandra Zamora met me at the airport. They have become special friends and were in charge of my second week. They were joined by my new translator, Daniel Martinez. After our drive to the city of Camaguey, I connected with Action's Alternan and Arelis Claro. Both couples are amazing representatives of our God and of Action Ministries in Cuba. It was a joy to work with them! They refreshed me with their great food, prayers and fellowship as we sang, laughed and served God together. Here are some of the many hi-lites:

* Release of my book "Majesty in Motion" in Spanish and distribution to Cuban pastors, students and leaders in Camaguey classes and Santiago training events.

- Emotional and encouraging meeting with Nilka of Venezuela, my book's Spanish translator. Her testimony of how God used the book to help transform her life was a very moving moment.
- What a blessing to experience a very engaged and attentive class full of students in my first week. I am considered by some (including Professor Carmen) to be a full member of Elim Bible Institute faculty and also invited to return not only to Elim but to other cities in Cuba as well. Pray for God's leading for me on these requests.
- Special visit to 4 Cuban homes to meet and pray with some very seriously ill Persons and others with limited mobility. A very touching moment with a young mother whose little boy who is hospitalized with leukemia. I led our visiting group and Pastor Yoan in prayer for him.
- The vivid memory I have of students and conference participants coming up to my face, looking into my eyes, and saying thanks for what they saw as solid bible teaching on "The Spirit Filled life-The Spirit filled Life". Really encouraging since I was teaching on the Holy Spirit in a Pentecostal denomination!

- I'm so grateful to God for giving me wisdom to answer questions on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. The workbook was published in bulletin sized format and was very easy /convenient for participants to use. I would like to use this format for English speaking audiences as well.
- Listening to my translator testify how God was convicting and speaking to him through the material that he was translating. Praise God!
- Opportunities to meet separately with both Daniel and his girlfriend (whom I met in the second week). They are both seeking counsel regarding God's will about marriage. So much to say here but it was a unique opportunity to meet and pray with them. We'll keep in touch.
- Singing "How Great Thou Art" with wife of pastor Yoan and Arelis --with our first week team!
- Getting hugged by a Christian in a downtown Santiago touristy place-so good to meet new brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Wonderful late night farewell dinner in downtown Camaguey with the Claros and our team after week one.
- One very important lesson that God taught me: It was late on the evening of day 7 in Camaguey. After a full week of teaching and ministry, I felt a mental and emotional overload. My normally high energy level was in deep need of recharging even though my Cuban team members expressed amazement at my energy and fitness level. When a team member suggested going to a beach, I quickly responded to the idea. Although the beach was 120 kms away, our brother Alternan took us to Santa Lucia where we found a hotel resort and used their facilities, beach , pool, food and hammocks for the day. Cost was about \$20 per person!
- The day made me feel so much better and my energy level rebounded and my mind was refreshed. My translator had never been to such a resort. He was like a kid in a candy shop ! God clearly reminded me of the importance of avoiding "need meeting overload". I realized that I was saying yes to every request to minister and so I was running dry. My cousin Paul Stevens calls it living the "mixed life"—balancing the meeting of needs with essential times of withdrawal to hear God's voice. There was a realization that

I must regularly practice a “ rhythm of engagement and withdrawl”. On this fourth Cuban trip, I believe that I am finally getting it!