



## Southwest District Mission Program

June 2014



By the time you are reading this article I will be at the Annual Conference at Camp Cannan in Cuba. There will be many nervous Cuban pastors in attendance. They have no idea if they will be staying at the present church or moving to another until the changes are announced on Thursday evening of the conference. On my return I will have results of the new appointments.

At Annual Conference on behalf of the Southwest District of Florida I will extend Bishop Ricardo Pereira a Letter of Invitation to visit our district and to preach in the area. Please be in prayer about this, I know the Bishop's schedule is very busy and his time is limited. I will just put it in God's hands.

I will be bringing two Cuban pastors back with me on my return to Florida on June 24<sup>th</sup>. First is the District Superintendent of Holguin Norte, Pastor Isel Acanda. Secondly is Pastor Ernesto "Tornado" Leon of the church in Tacajo. Pastor Isel is at Mayari and his sister church is the Lighthouse United Methodist Church of Boca Grande. Pastor Tornado's sister church is Tice United Methodist Church of Fort Myers.

will be opportunities to meet, greet and hear them preach. The following dates have been scheduled. But please pay close attention there will be more as we fill their schedules.

June 29<sup>th</sup> Tice United Methodist...  
Pastor Ernesto will be preaching

July 6<sup>th</sup> Fort Ogden United Methodist...  
Pastor Ernesto we be preaching

July 8<sup>th</sup> Meet and greet and hear words from each pastor. Location and time to be determined.

July 13<sup>th</sup> First Church in downtown Sarasota...  
Pastor Isel will be preaching.

There will be more opportunities to hear them preach....please stay tuned.



### Cuba Youth Trip 2014

We have been blessed with a full team of enthusiastic young Christian men and women. On July 22 – July 29<sup>th</sup> these outstanding students and their chaperons will be worshipping and fellowshiping with one thousand Cuban brothers and sisters in Christ. I ask for your prayers for these young adults as their life is going to change from "before Cuba to after Cuba."

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**Students:**                      **Church Represented:**

- ◆ **Sierra Mearns**              **First Church of Punta Gorda**
- ◆ **Conor Peters**              **First Church of Punta Gorda**
- ◆ **Grant Reecher**            **Lighthouse Church of Boca Grande**
- ◆ **Amanda Wagler**          **Trinity UMC of Sarasota**
- ◆ **Kayla Wagler**              **Trinity UMC of Sarasota**
- ◆ **Kayla Wagler**              **Trinity UMC of Sarasota**
- ◆ **Reddick Walker**         **Killearn UMC of Tallahassee**

**Chaperones:**

- ◆ **Carly Ellsworth**         **Trinity UMC of Sarasota, Youth Dir.**
- ◆ **Scott Folsom**            **Gulf Cove UMC, Youth Director**

If you are interest in going on a trip to Cuba please email me for an application. You must have a current passport that does NOT expire for one year after the trip. Upcoming planned trips:

**November 2014: Fully Booked**  
**January 2015: Fully Booked**  
**June 2015: Three Spaces Available**  
**July 2015: Youth Trip—Open**  
**(15-19 yrs. old)**  
**November 2015: Open**



### Water Projects

God works in mysteries ways as many of you know. I learned of the need of a water project in Tacajo by just general conversation with the locals. Now this has grown into the largest single project in the district that I have been involved.



Through much investigation by Pastor Art McClellan of First Church of Sarasota, and James Thurmond of Englewood UMC we have elected to move forward on this project for the district. We have been in contact with Russell Montgomery, President of Living in Faith Water Purification Systems: [www.livinginfaith.net](http://www.livinginfaith.net)

In August 2014 he will install five-filter systems in the Holguin Norte District. These systems have been paid for by generous donations from the Southwest District. Russ will not be back to the Holguin Norte area for at least a year so we are so blessed to have these installed at this time.

Two locations have been designated: Tacajo and Mayari (the district church). The other three locations will be determined before I return at the end of June. I will report more on my return.

Last, but by far not the least, I ask for all to be in prayer for four churches in the Southwest District taking under serious consideration the adoption of a church in Cuba. This is a major decision for these churches and it should not be taken lightly. God will direct them in their decision. But what they do not know is the change that is about to happen to their church. When they adopt a church in Cuba the biggest change is not in Cuba but in the United States.

God Bless All,

*Dan Christopherson*

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