

Mission Cuba

by Pastor Barclay Mayo

Let me tell you about a wonderful opportunity for ANiC parishes and ministries to get involved with an exciting new mission project in partnership with the Reformed Episcopal Church (REC) in Cuba. REC Bishop Charles and Claudia Dorrington have worked tirelessly, and mostly single-handed, over the last 15 years to help orthodox Anglican Christians build congregations in Cuba.

There are now 18 churches or plants and over 1000 people at worship each Sunday! This great movement of God has created a need for new parish-to-parish partnerships with Canadian congregations who will share in and help support these ministries through the next season. We in Canada are uniquely positioned to partner with our Cuban brothers and sisters.



Bishop Trevor has been asked by Bishop Charles to oversee the ANiC/REC partnerships and I have been asked to help connect committed ANiC parish leaders with ministries in Cuba. *Hungry for Life (HFL) Canada* is a mission agency that enables and administers partnership connections between Canadian churches and congregations all over the world. They are helping us with the Cuba Mission.

Part of what HFL does is to provide full sponsorship, through a generous donor, for committed mission team leaders to visit Cuba on a “vision trip”. They also look after all the bookings, transportation, accommodation and food – both for the initial vision trip, but also any follow-up missions arranged for your parish teams. That takes a huge burden off the parish and allows you to concentrate on the mission itself. Representatives from St John’s Vancouver, St Matthews (Abbotsford, BC) and Mountain Valley Mission (Squamish, BC) went in May and are now working to build relationships with three Cuban churches.

Another vision trip is being planned for 2014 (date to be determined) and we already have commitments from The Rev Rod Ellis of Church of Our Lord (Victoria, B C) and The Rev Howard Hynes of St Stephen the Martyr (St Johns, NL). We hope to include two or three other ANiC church leaders who have the backing of their parishes to commit to one of these wonderful partnerships.



What does partnership mean? Initially, we are asking for a commitment to support the pastor and his family at \$100/month. This will free up other REC-raised funds to plant additional churches. Secondly, depending upon the size of the congregation, and either on your own or in partnership with other smaller Canadian congregations, we will be asking you to commit to raising enough funds to help purchase a working farm or other fruitful business that can provide enough income to make that parish not only self-sufficient, but able to support additional church plants. The 8-hector farm in

the photo to the left – including all livestock, fencing, seed stock, and business plan, as well as government contracts – was only \$19,000! It will enable the parish in Moa to become self-sufficient within 24-36 months!

There is much, much more to tell you and I don’t have the space here. If the Holy Spirit has just tugged your heart and you think that your parish might wish to be involved, please give me a call at 604-815-8309 or email me at barclay@mountainvalleymission.ca