



May 20-27 2016

A year of change!

For the first time in 14 years Bishop Charles Dorrington's health prevented him from leading the mission to Cuba. The loss of relationship has been deeply painful for Bishop Charles, for the

Cuban Christians and not least for Claudia, coming on her own with our team.

Nevertheless, the church in Cuba is prevailing against harsh obstacles. Almost all the clergy have been suffering from physical illness with no or inadequate medicine. Water quality is poor, houses are minuscule, food lacks basic nutrients, churches are cramped and in homes, travel is exhausting, heat is oppressive and yet faith is strong, vibrant and evangelism is effective.



Through Moore College extension from Australia, clergy are being educated. Clergy are being powerfully led and pastored by Bishop William our Cuban Bishop. Seeing Bishop William in the first two years of his Episcopacy, coming into his own authority, is inspiring. Bishop William is leading with both grace and truth. One of his clergy used this image to describe his ministry: He flies in as a hurricane and comes back as a gentle peaceful breeze. In other words, he forcefully confronts error and character defects and then seeks to father his beloved people.

The clergy are feeling secure in knowing where they stand with their Bishop. They are growing in discipleship, and are confident in their loving and strong Bishop, who has their best interest in mind and heart. Finally, in terms of growth, Evangelists are being raised up and mission stations are springing up all over Cuba.

This is only possible through partnerships through ACNA churches. Without financial aid clergy would need 3 jobs to put basics food on the table, leaving no time for the work of ministry and the growth of the church. We now have 17 church partnerships between Cuban churches and ACNA churches. The time consuming task of supervising these church relationships has been well executed by The Rev Barclay Mayo. I am deeply grateful for Barclay's passion for the Cuban churches and administrative skills.



Claudia's presence in Cuba is electric! I am not suggesting she creates static electricity, rather she provides electric power and energy. The Cuban people flock to greet her, hold onto her, adore her and of course the feeling is mutual. They know she loves them and has profoundly sacrificed for their life, hope and faith.

Our team of Claudia Dorrington, Rev Barclay Mayo, Rev Brain McVitty, Mike Tweedle, and Bishop Trevor Walters, attended the third Synod of the Reformed Episcopal Diocese of Cuba. All of us agreed it was one of the finest Synods we have experienced. The synod report was a stunning example of the latest technology in 17 graphic pages of statistical detail and summary reports. The day and a half of synod were inspiring, testimony from every church, detailed financial accounting, canonical changes and one of the best Bishop's charges ever heard.

The Cuban church has truly come of age, left home and taken their place alongside other leaders in the Anglican communion. Bishop William will be travelling to Chile to represent Cuba at the upcoming Caminemos Juntos conference in September. This is the first Anglican conference for Latin America in Latin America. **Please pray for Cuba in a time of significant change. Please sponsor a parish!**