

Central Presbytery, Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba

This information was supplied by Rev. Edelberto Valdes, Pastor and Secretary of Central Presbytery in Cuba. This is a translation from the original Spanish; we believe it is accurate but no efforts were made to make it read as we might write it. Hopefully this will begin our understanding of our new partners and provide areas for prayer.

Organized Churches = 13

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|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Cabaiguán | 8. Placetás |
| 2. Caibarién | 9. Remedios |
| 3. Calabazar De Sagua | 10. Sagua La Grande |
| 4. Camajuaní | 11. Sancti Spiritus |
| 5. Encrucijada | 12. Santa Clara |
| 6. Iguará | 13. Taguasco |
| 7. Meneses | |

Cabaiguán: Population: less than 20,000 persons

Economy of city: refinery & related oil businesses, agriculture (tobacco, rice, sugar cane, fruits)

Pastor Marlon Irrarragorri Martínez

Church organized since 1907; Sanctuary since 1924 (previously had a school)

Members: ~ 120 Average age: 40-60 years

Missions: Paraíso Obrero & Banao

Committees: Programs and Works and Christian Education

Typical Week:

- Sunday: Sunday School (divided into 6 classes)
 - Worship
- Tuesday: Prayer meetings (in 4 homes)
- Wednesday: Paraíso Mission Work (evening)
- Friday: Devotional & Open sanctuary
- Saturday: guitar lessons
- 1st Saturday of the month: meeting with children's group or seniors - varied activity (dance, tea, tai chi, conversation .. etc.)

Work at the mission sites :

Paraíso:

Sunday School

Worship (the mission has a sanctuary)

Banao:

Worship service on Tuesdays

Social Projects:

- Laundry - benefits 50 people. (Those who benefit are from local nursing homes – some are church members, and others aren't); 2 times per week
 - In operation for 12 years
- Breakfast project: 50 enjoy a complimentary breakfast 1 time per week (Thursday)
- Craft Group: Sustained through the Church budget. (sewing , production of cards, and others)
- Youth Group: 10-15 attending. Meetings at various places of environmental interest (flora and fauna). Includes:
 - Topic, devotional and information on the location

- Choir: The choir offers support every Sunday
- Guitar lessons
- Alcoholics Anonymous: The Church provides a meeting location for AA meetings. The agency is independent of the Church, but maintains a good relationship with the Church.

Caibarién: Population : more than 40,000 persons

Economy of the city: sustained by fishing and tourism

Pastor Edelberto Valdés Fleites

Church organized since October 5, 1902

Members: ~ 74 people Average age: 40-60 years

Mission: Camagüey (distance 300 km. away)

Supervised by a lay worker

Typical Week:

- Sunday: Sunday School
 - Worship service (at night)
- Monday: House of Prayer
- Tuesday: Prayer Meeting at the Church
- Wednesday: Bible Study (morning)
- Thursday: Meetings in homes with service of Communion 2 times per month
- Friday: House discussion (various topics concerning the human and the divine)

Work at the Mission site:

Camagüey:

Worship (Sunday)

Tuesday Prayer Meeting

Bible Study on Thursdays

Social projects:

- Lunch and dinner Project: 40 people 3 times a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday). The elderly take their evening meal with them (after lunch on those days)
- English Classes : 50 people enjoy this project 2 times a week (Tuesday and Thursday)
- Sale of Christian literature
- Sewing workshop
- Pastoral House able to accommodate 17 people for courses, workshops, extension courses , ...
- They also have food service and ability to use the classrooms.
- Alcoholics Anonymous: The Church provides a meeting location for AA meetings. The agency is independent of the Church, but maintains a good relationship with the Church.

Calabazar de Sagua: Population: less than 20,000 persons

Economy of the city: The city is sustained by the manufacture of soda / rum; agriculture (meats, rice, sugar cane ...), center to process sugar, livestock.

Pastor Marielys Díaz Aragón

Church Organized since October 6, 1941

Members: ~ 36 people

Typical Week:

- Sunday: Sunday School
 - Worship
- Tuesday: Open Sanctuary--Encounter with the Bible (Bible study)
- Wednesday: 2 Wednesdays per month there is a meeting for the seniors of the Church with physicians and other participants
- Thursday: Visitation for prayer (in small groups)
- Friday: Open sanctuary
- Saturday: youth group meetings

Social Projects:

- Sale of avocados
- Dorcas Project (laundry)
- Alcoholics Anonymous: The Church provides a meeting location for AA meetings. The agency is independent of the Church, but maintains a good relationship with the Church.

Camajuaní : Population: less than 20,000 persons

Pastor Michael Beatón Oackley

Church organized since March 25, 1912

Members: ~ 50

Mission: Muelas Quietas: (distance 5 km away)

Typical Week:

- Sunday: Sunday School (divided into 4 classes)
 - Worship
- Tuesday: Prayer meeting (morning)
- Wednesday: House of Prayer
- Friday: Bible Study

Work in the mission site:

Muelas Quietas:

Worship Service (Friday night)

Social Projects:

- Senior Project: 30 persons benefit from a lunch, a time for dancing, a devotional and sometimes a special dinner
- Organic Project (Garden):
 - The Church has its own garden for some crops. Currently have pumpkins, corn, beans ... to provide vegetables for the Senior project and raise some money
 - A member of the Church works the garden.
- Alcoholics Anonymous: The Church provides a meeting location for AA meetings. The agency is independent of the Church, but maintains a good relationship with the Church.

Encrucijada: Population: less than 20,000 persons

Economy of the city: The city is sustained by sugar mills, agriculture (rice, sugarcane, fruits).

Pastor Marielys Diaz Aragón

Church organized since November 13, 1929

Members: ~ 32 people

Typical Week:

- Sunday: Sunday School
- Wednesday: Bible study
- Friday: Prayer meeting
- Saturday: Worship service (night)

Projects:

Lunch Program: 15 people benefit from the project

Iguará: Population: 4,000 persons

Economy of the city: The city is sustained by agriculture; there is a cheese and butter factory.

Pastor Marlon Irrarragorri Martínez ; assisted by lay worker, Lester Blanco Manso

Church organized since 1991, although there was work there since 1949; Sanctuary since 1999

Members: ~ 23 people

Typical Week:

- Sunday: Sunday School
- Wednesday: Bible Study
- Thursday: House of Prayer
- Friday: House of Prayer
- Saturday: Worship service (night)

Social Projects:

- Weavers Workshop
- Lunch for seniors (about 15 seniors benefit from the project)

Meneses: Population: ~ 4,000 persons

Pastor Marlon Irrarragorri Martínez; assisted by lay worker, Alexis Rosales Padilla

Church organized since 1926; Sanctuary since 2008

Members: ~30 persons

Typical Week :

- Sunday: Sunday School
- Tuesday: Bible Study
- Thursday: House of Prayer
- Friday: House of Prayer
- Saturday: Worship Service

Social Projects:

- Project with diabetics
- Music Group
- Feeding seniors : 15 seniors benefit once a week
- Sewing and mending of clothing

Placetas: Population: ~ 75,000 persons

Economy of the city: The city is sustained by tobacco company, agriculture (rice, sugarcane, fruits), metal casting. Sizable population of emigrants provides large income through remittances.

Pastor Michael Beatón Oackley; assisted by lay worker, Reile Marrero Ruiz

Church organized since 1908

Members: ~ 60

Mission: El Copey

Typical Week :

- Sunday: Prayer service
 - Sunday School (divided into 5 classes)
 - Worship
- Tuesday: Prayer Service
- Wednesday: Mission El Copey
- Friday: House of Prayer (ecumenical: Methodist, Catholic, Pentecostal ...)
- Saturday: Youth Group

Work at the mission site:

El Copey:

Worship service on Wednesday

Social Projects:

- Laundry Project: 15 people benefit from the project 2 times per week.
- Lunch Project: for the past seven years 35 people enjoy a lunch (Tuesday and Thursday) ..
- Youth Group: Project Life. For 10 to 15 youth. Meetings at various locations for discussion on civic education. Meetings include theme and information about the location and appropriate behavior. Bible program, including contests/ devotional; Special guest speakers.
- Sewing workshop: This activity is supported by the Church. At the same time the supplies can be used by the children for crafts.

Remedios: Population: less than 20,000 persons.

Economy of the city: The city is sustained by the oil refinery industry, tobacco and other agriculture (rice, sugarcane, fruits).

Pastor Michael Beatón Oackley; assisted by ruling elder, Olga Comas Perez

Church organized since 1902

Members: ~40

Typical Week:

- Sunday: Sunday School (divided into 4 classes)
 - Worship
- Tuesday: Bible Study
- Friday: Family Altar

Social Projects:

- Laundry: 12-15 people benefit from the project
- Lunch Project: 30 people enjoy a lunch 3 times per week.
- Craft Group

Sagua la Grande: Population: ~ 45,000 persons

Economy of the city: The city is sustained by factories (spark plugs, acids), harbor, medical university, agriculture. This city suffers from a high rate of unemployment.

Pastor Marielys Díaz Aragón

Church organized since 1914 New Sanctuary in 2006

Members: ~70

Typical Week:

- Sunday: Sunday School
 - Worship
- Tuesday: Classes for new members; pastoral counseling
- Wednesday: Bible Study
- Thursday: Prayer Service; pastoral counseling
- Friday: Pastoral counseling
- Saturday: Activities for children and youth

Social Projects:

- Breakfast project: 15 people enjoy a breakfast (Tuesday and Friday).
- Music Workshop

Sancti Spiritus: Population: ~ 100,000 persons.

Pastor Edelberto Valdés Fleites, with support and assistance by the Session

Church organized on March 20, 1902

Members: ~ 114

Missions: Paredes (distance about 20 km away) & Toyos (a poor neighborhood in Sancti Spiritus)

Typical Week:

- Sunday: Sunday School (divided into 6 classes)
 - Worship (regular attendance : ~ 65-70 persons)
- Tuesday: Open Sanctuary
- Wednesday: Bible Study
- Thursday: Open Sanctuary
 - Intercessory Worship
- Friday: Choir Practice
- Saturday: Mission

Work at the Mission Sites:

Paredes:

The mission meets once a month
Toyos: (there is a chapel) 12 children + teens
The mission has a choir and a music workshop 2 times a week and a theater workshop
Tuesday: Worship
Thursday: Bible Study
Sunday: Bible School

Social Projects:

- Laundry Project
- Lunch Project: 50 people enjoy lunch (Monday to Friday)
- Ecumenical Center: Can accommodate 50 people for courses, workshops, extension courses , ... also has food service and ability to use the classrooms. This raises money for the Church and its projects.
- Workshop for Seniors: This program includes: choir, medical visits, and presentations by historians. Each event includes a devotional and a snack.
- Sewing Workshop: Participants in this voluntary program mend clothing for the elderly.
- Alcoholics Anonymous: The Church provides a meeting location for AA meetings. The agency is independent of the Church, but maintains a good relationship with the Church.
- Filtered Water Service by Living Waters for the World

Santa Clara : Population : ~ 250,000

Economy of the city: Universities, hospital centers, culture ...

Pastor Dalia Margarita Valdés Rodríguez

Church organized since 1955; Sanctuary since 1957

Members: ~ 110 people

Mission: The Camp (distance about 10 km from Santa Clara)

Typical Week:

- Sunday: Sunday School (divided into 3 classes)
 - Worship
- Monday: Film discussion with youth
- Tuesday: Prayer Service
- Wednesday: Bible Study
- Friday: Youth Group

Work at the mission site:

Camp:

Worship (at the chapel)

House of Prayer

The mission designed a project called “neighborhood school”. It is made up of informative courses along with a snack and a recreational activity for the children. There is also a short devotional.

Social Projects:

- Laundry Project - Benefits 25 to 75 people; 2 times per week
- Ecumenical Center: Can accommodate 20 people for courses, workshops, extension courses , ...
- Also has food service and ability to use the classrooms

- Sewing workshop : In this workshop volunteers mend clothes for the elderly

Taguasco: Population: ~ 10,000

Economy of the city: The city is sustained by tobacco, agriculture (rice, sugarcane, fruits, ...), industry, cement factory, distillery.

Pastor Dalia Margarita Valdés Rodríguez, with support from the Session

Church organized since 1932; Sanctuary since 1953

Members: ~ 66 persons

Mission: Las Margaritas

Typical Week:

- Sunday: Sunday School (divided into 5 classes); Lunch for children
- Monday: Choir Rehearsal
- Tuesday: Prayer Meeting
 - House of Prayer (night)
- Wednesday: Bible Study
- Thursday: Youth Group
- Friday: Open Sanctuary; devotional
- Saturday: Worship

Work at the mission site:

Las Margaritas: (Taguasco – a poor neighborhood, participants meet in a home)

Sunday School (children - 20-30 people.)

Worship

Social Projects:

- Laundry Project: 20 people benefit from the project
- Lunch Project: 20 people enjoy lunch 1 day a week (from age 5)
- Music