



Society Name Change

The Rev. Canon Barclay Mayo*

There is lots of news for our Fall 2024 *Cuba Chronicles*. I will begin with our name changes. The REC/ANiC Cuba Mission Society, the Canadian half of the society that manages the church planting mission in is expanding. We have begun to work with a young Pastor in Caracas, Venezuela and are in the process of welcoming a whole Diocese from Colombia! Given that expansion into other areas of Central and South America, we needed a name that would more accurately reflect the reality. In October our name was officially changed to the **REC/ANiC Latin America Mission Society**. The Anglican Network in Canada has changed its name to

Anglican Diocese of Canada. So, another society name change will be necessary down the road!

However, and this is important for our Canadian donors, the charity application is still in process and may well take a few more weeks. The CRA moves at its own speed. Therefore, please continue to make Canadian donations to The Central and Eastern REC Diocese of Canada, 157 Haddon Avenue North, Hamilton Ontario, L8S 4A7. I will inform all the donors once the new charity has been approved.



The Newly Ordained & Deans

Our Recent November 2024 Trip

Because of the conditions on the ground, we had to cancel a scheduled, all island visitation trip in July. Things did not really improve this fall, and following an early November hurricane, the situation on the ground was pretty grim. Bishop John, Fr. Paul, Fr. Ben and I were getting advice from many sectors not to go, but neither +John or I felt released by the Lord to cancel. It was almost as if the Holy Spirit was behind us, pushing and propelling us forward! Power was out in much of the island, had been off for 3 days in Havana when we arrived and wouldn't be restored until Tuesday the following week. However, that was the only inconvenience. Water needs were managed with bottles & buckets, food was prepared, transportation provided, and life went on as normal. In retrospect, our safety was never in question.

However, the Lord really opened the floodgates of heaven and poured out his grace and abundance upon the Clergy and Lay Leaders who dared to make the trip. They spent many hours travelling West on a non-airconditioned bus! We and they were welcomed with open arms by the Cuba Council of Churches, greeted by their President, the Rev. Joel Ortega Dopico, and fed and cared for by



Recently baptized and happy parents.



Gustavo confirmed.

their attentive staff. Pastor Gustavo and Fr. Paul were able to interpret for us. Bishop John and I were allowed to openly wear our collars and robes, and to function as clergy throughout the week. We were able to deliver three suitcases of water filters and medical supplies. Finally, we were also given religious visas on the way out the door which will facilitate our visit to Holguin and Moa in January. TBTG!

We had five days of Synod, and pastoral meetings with each of the Clergy. Four young people were Baptized, twelve adults Confirmed, one Deacon and three Priests Ordained, five Lay Readers licensed, and a Dean appointed for each of the three Convocations. In addition, oral Ordination exams were conducted for a brother from Caracas, Venezuela, Pastor Gustavo Yanez. The week was filled with great teaching, wonderful worship, prayer and amazing fellowship. The Pastors, Lay Leaders and their Deans all left excited about their calling, and the future of the Cuba Diocese's ministry. The mission team was in awe of what we were able to accomplish. The Lord gets all the credit. His incredible favour and provision made it all happen! Thank You Jesus!

■ Changes to the Mission

Archdeacon Alexei has immigrated with his two oldest daughters to Brazil. His wife Aniet and the remainder of his family will likely join them early in the new year. It is not our intention to appoint a new Archdeacon at this time but to have the Bishop work directly with the Deans. Bishop John has been working with the former Archdeacon, and now the Deans to change the way that the mission operates, so that we can help the parishes become more self-sufficient. Over the last year the congregations have been taught & encouraged to tithe to their church, and their church tithe to the Diocese. While the amounts are small, this has significantly changed the culture of the mission. Funds are now set aside at both the local and diocesan levels to resource some local mission projects in each of the parishes. If the Cuban economy can recover, the local congregations will be better able to fund their own ministry, perhaps even the Pastor's salary at some time in the future

However, we are not there quite yet and there is much more work to be done. In the meantime, the Pastors' salaries and those of their admin teams, team travel expenses, med-kits and water filters still need to be covered. It has not been finalized yet, but our budget for the coming year should be between



Pastor Raudel, Dean Pablo, Pastor Gustavo, Bishop John, Dean Eric.

110-120K, even split between the Mission Society and the REC Board of Foreign Missions. So, we need your help. If you are partnered with one of our clergy: please pray about increasing your offering. Priests are now being paid \$300 USD/month and more if they are a Dean; a Deacon is paid \$200 USD/month; a Lay reader is \$100 USD/month. I still have 2 Lay Readers, a Deacon and 2 Priests who have no Parish Partners. Perhaps you could partner with another REC or ADoC church to provide for one of the Pastors family needs.



Paul, Nely, Claudio, & John.

■ New Faces

We welcome three new Pastors to our mission, a Cuban, a Venezuelan, and a new American Team Member. Missionary Lay Reader Yoannis Arce Perez is an assistant to Dean Rolando at St. Marks in Moa. He is married to Marilyn and they have two sons, Luis and Jose. Luis is studying for Ordination at our seminary in Moa. Pastor Gustavo Yanez is just finishing his studies at the REC Seminary in Philadelphia and is hoping to be made Deacon early in the Spring when Bishop John visits. He is the interim Pastor of the United Christian Church in Caracas, an English-speaking expat congregation. Fr. Paul, who came to the REC from the Baptist Church, is Rector of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Webster Groves, MO. He previously served in the Peace Corps in Paraguay and attended seminary in Argentina. Paul is a fluent Spanish speaker, talented teacher of church history and a gifted preacher. His skill and sense of humour are a welcome addition to our mission team.



Yoannis Arce Perez

What Can You Do?

The Rev. Canon Barclay Mayo*

Obviously a massive amount of prayer coverage is essential. These faithful servants can only continue the Lord's work in this dark and dangerous environment when they are protected by the Holy Spirit. We need all of the Church's prayer warriors to be on their knees. Also, please be in regular contact, through WhatsApp or Facebook, with your partner Cuban congregations. Ask them to pray for your congregation and lift them up in your public worship.

Even though we know that it will probably not be sufficient, the Board of Directors has held the 2024-2025 Cuba Mission budget to a 10% increase. That means we need to raise \$90,000 USD or \$7,500 monthly to continue our support of this struggling, but once again growing diocese. Travel has also become much more expensive for the mission teams, and we could also use some help in that area. If we had these funds either in hand or promised before the end of May, it would make managing this mission much easier. Please ask the Lord to show you how and provide the means for you individually and/or your congregations to help. Thank you for your prayers and for your personal and parish support.

If you are not already working with us on this mission but feel that God might be calling you to get involved, please give me a call at 604-815-8309 or email at barclay.mayo@gmail.com.

Our Charity application is in progress but, at the moment we are still working through the REC Diocese. Please see below to find information about donating funds.

■ Moving into a New Cuban Province

Dean Pablo has repurposed some of the funds that were freed up by Alexei's move, in order to begin working to plant REC congregations in the neighbouring province of Santi Spiritus. Working with some of his brother Pastors, Pablo has plans to be personally on the ground there beginning in the new year. I told you he was pumped! Please pray that he will find favour with the people in those first few towns and that new believers will be made.

How You Can Give to the Cuba Mission

Canadian donations should now be made out and sent to:

**The Diocese of Central and Eastern Canada of
The Reformed Episcopal Church,
157 Haddon Avenue North,
Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 4A7
nelsonbuffett@gmail.com 905-527-1549**

or in the USA

**c/o REC Board of Foreign Missions
23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd, Ste H120 #642,
Katy, TX 77494
www.rec-bfm.org**

For more info about the Cuba Mission please contact:

The Rt. Rev. Charles Dorrington, REC Diocese of Western Canada,
70-7570 Tetayut Rd. Saanichton, BC V8M 2H4 | 250-507-0730 | revchas@shaw.ca or
Mrs. Claudia Dorrington, Corresponding Secretary, REC-ANiC Society | 250-652-8850

The Rt. Rev. Trevor Walters, ANiC Assisting Bishop, walters34@shaw.ca

The Rt. Rev. Walter Banek, REC USA, wrbanek@mac.com

The Rt. Rev. John Boonzaaijer - Suffragan Bishop of REC Cuba, john.boonzaaijer@gmail.com

To explore how you can become more involved, please contact:

The Rev. Canon Barclay Mayo, Mission Partnerships Coordinator, barclay.mayo@gmail.com | 604-815-8309

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