

NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

5 February 2025

Mesoamerica Region



Cuba

Cuba's history is one of native Amerindian decline from the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1492, its subsequent development as a Spanish colony over the next several centuries, and the importation of large numbers of African slaves to work the coffee and sugar plantations. US intervention during the Spanish-American War in 1898 assisted the Cuban overthrow of Spanish rule. Under Fidel Castro, the Cuban revolution lasted over five years, establishing a socialist political system in 1959. Constitutionally, a Marxist-Leninist socialist state, Cuba has a one-party system. One of the poorest nations in the Western Hemisphere, the average wage in Cuba is between \$20-\$40 US per month, well below the international poverty line of just over \$60 US per month, which gives the appearance of a nearly 66% poverty level there. Officially, the Triumph of the Revolution (Liberation Day), 1 January 1959, is considered Cuba's independence from foreign rule. The Church of the Nazarene opened work in Cuba in 1902, making it one of the oldest works in the denomination.



9,507 Members



144 Fully Organized Churches; 3 Not Yet Organized Churches



22 District Licensed, and 76 Ordained Ministers on 3 Districts

PRAYER



- Pray for the pastors and their families in Cuba, who serve faithfully to share the Good News of Jesus.
 - Pray for the efforts to provide retreats for these families and to strengthen the ties of ministry fellowship across Cuba.
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PRAISE



- Praise God for the success of gathering these families together for the restoration of spirits and renewal of calling to serve in challenging circumstances.
 - Praise God for those who are responding to God's call upon their lives for ministry in Cuba, and for those who are beginning to formally study for ministry.
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Kids Kaleidoscope

Click [here](#) to access Kids Kaleidoscope, a monthly addition to NMI Central to awaken and nurture a spirit of missions in everyone.



Rest and Renewal: A Transformative Retreat for Pastors' Families in Cuba



In the heart of Cuba, something extraordinary is happening. Pastors' families, who often carry the weight of ministry in challenging circumstances, have been experiencing a rare and much-needed opportunity for rest, renewal, and family connection. Thanks to Nazarenes who have contributed to this project, these families are coming together for a unique retreat experience designed to refresh their spirits and strengthen their bonds.

For many pastoral families in Cuba, time for rest and recreation is scarce. The demands of ministry and the challenges of daily life can make it difficult for them to step away and focus on family time. Recognizing this need, the Ministry of Child Development and the Sponsorship of Pastors' Children initiated a special project—retreats that provide space for these families to reconnect, recharge, and grow together.



So far, two districts have successfully hosted retreats, with a third one on the horizon. The results have been nothing short of remarkable. One Cuban pastor, Yendri, shared his personal experience, saying that despite the ongoing economic hardships, the retreat was a "true gift from God." For Yendri and his family, the time spent together, and with fellow pastoral families, felt like a priceless treasure, offering them a sense of richness that transcended their financial challenges.

The retreats have been more than just a break from the routine—they have been transformative. Pastors and their families have returned home emotionally and spiritually recharged, with renewed energy for ministry. These retreats have become a source of unity, helping families grow stronger in their relationships and faith.

Despite the logistical challenges of sending funds to Cuba, these retreats have continued to move forward, thanks to the efforts of dedicated partners and the grace of God. The testimonies from those who have participated speak of the profound impact these experiences have had, bringing healing, hope, and renewal to families who serve tirelessly in their communities.

This project is just one example of how the Church of the Nazarene is meeting the unique needs of Nazarenes worldwide. It serves as a reminder that even in the most difficult circumstances, faith, connection, and the power of Christ can bring about incredible change.

As preparations for a third retreat are underway, the excitement and anticipation continue to grow. These retreats have proven to be a lifeline for pastoral families, and their lasting impact is already being felt across Cuba.

Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to serve on the Mesoamerica Region?

For more information, click [here](#).

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