

Sharing the good news of Jesus and His Kingdom and equipping the church to do the same.



Greg West, Evangelist

Mission Trip to Cuba Plus Latin America 2023



Greg and Eileen just outside of Havana, Cuba in 1997.

On Oct. 22 I will travel with a mission team to Cuba and partner with the Methodist Church in Cuba. Rick Bonfim Ministries works closely with the country's bishop to plan these trips.

The western part of Cuba is recovering from hurricane Ian. However, our focus will be in Ciego de Ávila, which is both a province and the capital city of that province in central Cuba. The team will be visiting many Methodist churches and join them in worship, evangelism and prayer ministries. The team has also raised funds to provide "a love offering" for each church. All the reports are that the church in Cuba is advancing and in revival! I'm thrilled that Adwoa Asiedu, one of my former student leaders at Virginia Wesleyan, will be on the trip with us.

Eileen and I were missionaries in the Yucatan, Mexico the summer of 1997 serving with Youth with a Mission (YWAM). We traveled to Cuba for a week to meet with leaders of the Methodist Church there. We took many Bibles and soap into the country and heard firsthand from pastors that many Cuban believers do not have their own Bibles. Additionally, since Cuba is a communist country, things like soap are rationed, meaning each family gets a certain amount of soap from the government each month. If you run out, you have to buy more.

I love Latino culture and find great joy in partnering with the church in Latin America. All added up, I have spent more than a year of my life in Latin America: a semester at the University of Guadalajara, serving in the Dominican

Republic and the Yucatan with YWAM and numerous short-term trips to Nicaragua, Mexico and Puerto Rico.



Greg on the boardwalk in Havana, Cuba in 1997

My hope is to begin some regular mission trips to Latin America in 2021. Many who travel to Latin America with me have transformational experiences as God opens their hearts. Compared to Latin America, the church in the United States is rich in resources and finances. However, the church in Latin America has joy despite poverty. They are rich in faith and in their love for Christ and it spills over to us as we serve with them.



Greg with a couple of church leaders in Havana, Cuba.

Update: Latin American Outreach



Our amigos at Puerta de Gracia with Lloyd Bolt around 2008. Abilio, mentioned in the article, is the first one on the left.

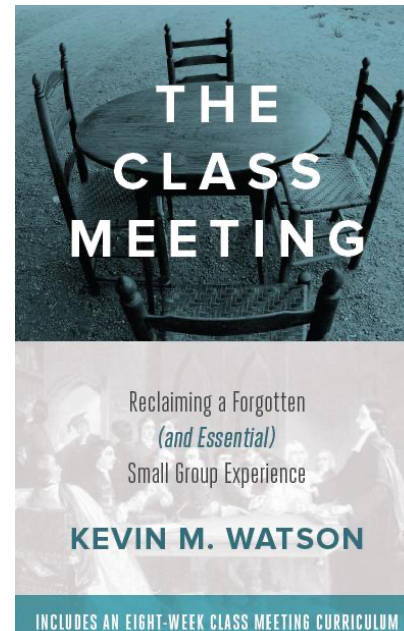
Puerta de Gracia is Grace Harbor in Spanish. This is the name of the church I pastored from 2002 to 2010. We had an English and Spanish speaking congregation in Suffolk, VA. It was an amazing season of life and ministry. On Sunday nights, we would gather with the Latinos to share a meal, play soccer, teach and learn English, study the Scriptures and worship! During those years, a “free-clinic” ministry was started by members of the congregation and others, which continues to this day!

I was delighted to see an old friend, Abilio, in Sept. at an outreach event. I hadn’t seen him in more than 10 years! He is from Guatemala and has been coming up through the U.S. government’s H-2B program to work for Bennett’s Creek Nursery. Dr. Mike Bono, Robin Jones, who is a certified nurse-midwife (CMA) and other medical professionals saw patients while Jason Gillikin, myself and others translated. We open with a time of prayer and speak freely about faith in Christ. The participants are receptive.



Abilio and Greg in 2022.

A New Class Meeting: A Different Kind of Small Group



I recently hosted an informational gathering about a new “Class Meeting” in Williamsburg. I plan to launch a group with those who are interested in joining after they see the uniqueness of the Class Meeting. How do seekers and followers of Christ grow best in Christlikeness? The subtitle of Kevin Watson’s book titled “Class Meeting” gives insight: Reclaiming a Forgotten and Essential Small Group Experience. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we create an atmosphere of grace and truth! Here we can celebrate each other’s growth, encourage each other in our struggles and be a healing and helping presence to all involved. If you are interested, or have questions, please contact me at: greg@lifeinhisname.net.

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Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

MATTHEW 28:18-20