



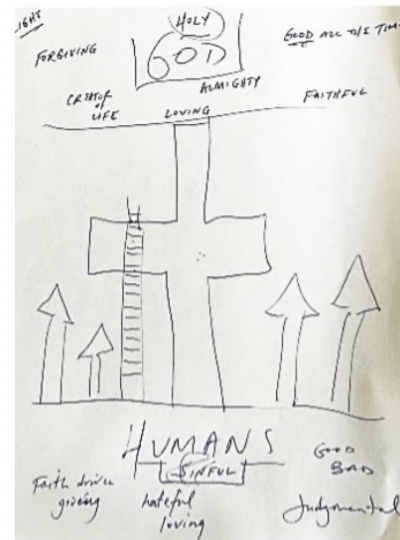
2022 was a year of surprises! I did not foresee: 1) that I would be pastoring a church part-time in Williamsburg 2) that I would return to Latin America on a mission trip to Cuba and 3) that new partnerships in small group ministry would open up. I am grateful to God for opening doors and opportunities for ministry! **As the year draws to a close, I want to say "thank you" for your prayers, encouragement and financial support of Life in His Name Ministries!**

In January, I stepped in for Rev. Garry Livermon at New Town UMC as he was undergoing treatments for cancer. Initially, I was to serve there for 6 months. However, that was extended. I am working with New Town UMC's Leadership Board on transition plans for 2023, so I can return to full time work in missions and evangelism. I've known this church for almost 20 years and am glad for the opportunity to serve them. New Town is a Christ-centered church that stands on God's Word and is open to the leading and working of the Holy Spirit! I am in Williamsburg to work with the church on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The church has graciously given me the parsonage so I can stay overnight.

Part of LIHN Ministries is helping the church recover small group ministry for evangelism. We need to have groups that welcome seekers and skeptics alike. New Town UMC and I ran an Alpha course this fall, connecting with a number of people who were considering the Christian faith. Also, I established a new small group that seeks to "watch over one another in love" -meeting people where they are in the journey with or towards Christ. I have partnered with others who are passionate about recovering small group ministry for evangelism and discipleship. We are connecting with churches who need a jump start to understand and launch small groups to introduce people to the Gospel and call each other to love and obey Christ. This year I have led training gatherings in Williamsburg, Hampton, Chesapeake, Virginia Beach and online! I am available if your church is interested in small group ministry.

Small group experiences frequently lead to life changing one-on-one conversations about how Jesus transforms us and the world. Recently, I spoke with someone who had "off and on" connections at churches. In listening closely to his story, it seemed that his faith was focused on his efforts and his accomplishments for God. I pointed this out while contrasting a faith that is trusting fully in Jesus and what he accomplished for us on the cross and in the resurrection. He agreed and could see the futility of putting faith in our own good works and achievements. These can never cover or atone for our sins! Only Christ can do that, and He has died and risen to rescue us! So, we do not follow Christ and do good things so that God will love us. Rather, the Good News is that God loved us while we were still sinners. God doesn't wait for us to "get ourselves together" or "clean up our acts." No! God loves us because God is love and this love is best seen in the person and life of Jesus! We believe in this Good News while turning from our sin, we receive Christ as Savior and Lord and He comes into our lives, forgiving and cleansing us! I'll be circling back soon to this person to see how their walk with Christ is going.

Below is a drawing I used recently to help someone understand the Good News of Jesus.



I asked them to describe what God is like and what humans are like. I wrote the descriptions down as we talked. Then, I showed the chasm between God and humanity and explained how people try to bridge the chasm with good works and religion. Yet, these efforts fall short. Jesus himself became the bridge between heaven and earth, between a Holy God and sinful humanity! Jesus Christ pursues each one of us in love! We are ambassadors of Christ.

Greg Whit

Cuba Missions 2023



On my first trip back to Latin America, I was able to preach a number of times in Spanish. The Methodist Church in Cuba is a growing and vibrant and moving in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I am working on plans for a mission trip to work again with the Methodist Church in Cuba. I believe God has called me to missions in Latin America. I have spent more than a year of my life in Latin America on dozens of mission trips; two of which were three-month trips, one to the Dominican Republic and the other to the Yucatan, Mexico. The Church in Latin America continually inspires me. What they lack in material resources, they more than make up for with a faith and confidence in the Living God! I had the joy of traveling to Cuba in October with a mission team led by Rick Bonfim Ministries out of Georgia. Rick is also an

Evangelist and has been taking teams to Cuba for 10 years.

Our team led a Pastor's conference for the 24 Methodist churches of the Ciego de Ávila District. There were times of worship and teaching followed by small groups where we shared and prayed with and for each Pastor. The Holy Spirit moved powerfully among us! He enabled the Pastors to share deeply and to call boldly on the Lord for healing, help and freedom.

Our team also traveled to each of the 24 churches and were able to spend time hearing about their ministries, to pray with and for them and gift them with donations that the team had collected. On our last day, we saw a District wide baptism service for 110 people! It was a time of great rejoicing, worship and awe! I was amazed! We have much to learn from our brothers and sisters in Cuba!



Greg with Pastor Fernando and his family.

New Board Member at LIHN Ministries



Deborah Clark is the Pastor of St. Mark's UMC in Hampton, VA. She has agreed to serve on our Board beginning in 2023. We are thrilled to have her as she is a woman of God with a heart for worship, preaching and prayer!

When Greg taught the course on Methodism at Virginia Wesleyan University, he invited Deborah to teach and lead on the hymns of Methodism. The students loved her as she ministered to them

and led them in worship. Deborah is a shameless lifelong student, graduating from Eastern Kentucky University with a business degree in 1976, from Kansas State with a teaching degree in 1990 and from Regent University with a Masters of Divinity in 2007. She has served as a Pastor in the Virginia Conference for 15 years, and her favorite place to be found is sitting with her dogs reading or watching the UK Wildcats play basketball.

Go Big Blue!

God's people doing God's work together is so wonderful. I am beyond grateful for your generous support of my ministry.

If I can be of help to you, your small group, ministry or church, please reach out. We can set up a Zoom call if we're not close geographically.

I have some small group resources on my website that may be of help as well. They can be found at:

<https://www.lifeinhisname.net/classmeetings.html>