

Happy New Year to all our partners in ministry! We trust that you will experience God's blessing this year as you walk with Him.

Family matters: The Elmore house was alive with 13 extra bodies this Christmas. All our children and grandchildren were able to visit at one time. It was great to see everyone, and to catch up on life from the 4 different angles of the lives of our 4 grown children. What a crew! We have attached a couple of family pictures for your enjoyment.

Cuba ministry: I (Floyd) went to Cuba in November to teach the Book of Romans at Las Palmas Seminary, located some 45 minutes to the west of Havana. Twenty pastors and missionaries from churches of the Misión Mundial de Cuba (World Mission of Cuba) attended. I had not realized that this group would come from all over the island. Since church planting is the heart beat of the Mision Mundial churches, they have a very active missionary movement among the provinces in Cuba where there are few gospel-preaching churches. The students who came are all involved in church planting in some capacity. All are students in the Transcultural Ministries course of studies offered by ESEPA Seminary (San Jose, Costa Rica) in Cuba. Some came from provinces almost 600 miles away, a bus trip of about 15 hours!

We had a super week of intense study and fellowship. The truths of Romans seemed to impact the students in a way I had not experienced in quite a while. Upon reaching Romans 3 and after explaining in detail 3:21-26, I noticed about half a dozen of the students -- both men and women -- weeping! The meaning of the grace of God in Christ Jesus had become clearer and the impact was palpable in the room! What a blessing to see students who have never had educational opportunities like we have so readily here in USA respond with heart and soul to God's Word. As we wored our way through Romans 5 to 8, they "got it." The rejoicing over their new identity in Christ was real and moved me immensely to see their enthusiasm for living truth.

To help you experience a little bit of the Cuba teaching trip, I am going to go out on the "cloud" and try to use technology that I have not utilized to this point. Since video clips are too large to send by email attachment, I will give you links to files in my "dropbox" in the "cloud" (cyberspace storage). If your computer can play video, you should be able to play these.

The students planned a "thank you" time at the end of our week of study. Their response to the teaching in Romans is seen in this song "En Cristo somos más que vencedores" (In Christ we are more than conquerors). It is a song of praise based on Romans 8. Click on the following link to see.

<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/55045168/Rom.Song.MP4>

To help the students remember the main points of the book of Romans, I taught them a "walk thru Romans" with hand signs. They really got into it and seemed to remember the points well. They wanted me to lead them through the "walk thru" ("Caminata" in Spanish) one more time at the good-bye party. Click on the following link to see.

<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/55045168/Rom.Caminata11.MP4>

Through the generosity of you all who support our work, I was able to buy and carry into Cuba 25 copies of Douglas Moo's Commentary on Romans in Spanish. I took a couple of copies of John Stott's commentary as well for the library. Each student got a "donated" copy of the Romans commentary to read and help them continue their study. They were thrilled. They wanted me to be sure to thank you for blessing them with this tool. Such resources are scarce in Cuba. Two additional copies were left in the library. Here is a bit of the dedication of the book.

<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/55045168/Rom.CommentaryDedication.MP4>

One student seemed to have a knack for poetry. She wrote a long poem of appreciation, rehearsing many of the points I had made in teaching thru Romans. She presented me with a small embroidery to hang in my office, an expression of thanks from all the students. Even though it is in Spanish, I hope you can pick up on the poetic flavor of her presentation to me. Click on this link to see. <http://dl.dropbox.com/u/55045168/Rom.hangup.thanks.MP4>

We are looking forward to finishing the first round of classes in the M.A. at Los Pinos Nuevos Seminary this Spring. Pray that we can get the right profs into Cuba to teach and to help the Masters' students with research on their thesis. There are still many obstacles to overcome, but we are confident answers to difficult issues of research and writing in Cuba will be found.

Love to all. We appreciate your partnership and look forward to visiting with many of you personally and in your churches during 2012.

Floyd and Pam

1 Peter 4:10-11

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