

April 2018

Dear Friends,

Above all, we want to thank all of you for your support in prayers during this season. And it has been a very busy and challenging one for us. Here is what has been going on and how God has working through *Prédica Fiel*.

Also as you probably noticed, we have change the name and the logo of *Equipo Impacto*. The main reason we have done this is because we realised that *Equipo Impacto* (which translates to “Impact Team”) was not very specific to what we do, and so sometimes led to confusion. We prayed and worked hard to find a name and design that better shows what we do. And what you are seeing in our letterhead is the result of this that was unanimously approved by our Board of Directors. We are still legally known as *Equipo Impacto*, just simply doing business as *Prédica Fiel* (which translates as *Faithful Preaching*).



COBIME: We have always had lot of obstacles in hosting COBIME, but nothing quite as intense as this year. Among other things, we had to cancel the conference in the East several weeks beforehand due to scheduling conflicts. In the West, we needed to change the venue at the last minute. There was also the challenge of obtaining a visa for Bryan Chapell (our primary speaker), which was not approved at first and was then approved after he had already arrived in the country, requiring him to fly back to Miami for

one night. This caused a shift in the programme. Even through these challenges, this third COBIME was a very fruitful time. We were able to find a convenient venue that exceeded our expectations. The feedback we got from hundreds of pastors was great, expressing their gratitude for the way they felt encouraged and equipped by the speakers. They all interacted very well during and after the sessions. They were also very thankful for the printed and digital resources distributed at the end of the conference.

We grew in numbers from COBIME 2012 and 2015, with a total of 356 people attending from 11 different Christian denominations on the island, four of which were new denominations to us. It was also very special to have La Iglesia Bautista International’s worship team with us. They served our people at the conference as well as the broader Christian community in La Habana and beyond. They offered a Workshop on Worship where we had an attendance of 254 people from around 65 churches (with only 20 percent of them attending COBIME also).

Seminary Project: We are excited as we continue our project with the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. This past February, we flew to Santiago de Cuba with Dr. Robert S. Kinney, who was our main professor for this second course. We worked on how to preach from the Gospels and Acts. We started this project to serve a cohort at the Seminary composed of 16 students. We intend to

teach one 1-week modular class each semester for three years, covering the six literary genres of the Bible. The students are excited about discovering and applying what they've learned to their preaching. Some of them are showing their eagerness to continue learning and some of them have good instincts on handling the Word of God well.

Preaching Workshops: During this season, we have been also able to host four workshops and one instructor gathering, with two of the workshops in partnership with the CST. One of the Workshops was our first ever Women's Workshop. We thank Colleen McFadden, Marjorie Meeks, and Aubrey Lindbergh who came to support Lourdes Llorens for this Workshop. The women who attended worked hard during the Workshop and they expressed they felt encouraged and equipped to teach the Bible to other women. The other Workshop with the CST was on preaching the Minor Prophets. Jeremy



Meeks and Darrell Young supported us as instructors at the Workshop. In March, we also hosted two more Workshops: one in the very west of Cuba on Leviticus, and the other at a new location in the center of the island in Camajuani. We had 24 new pastors coming to this second Workshop on 2 Timothy. In February, we also got the chance to host most of the team from the CST and we did an instructor training. We are happy to see how our instructors are making progress. With them, we hope to have more pastors interested and greater potential to be instructors in the future.



Alexis Pérez Alfonso
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