

Dear Equipo Impacto Friends,

We are grateful for the opportunity to send you this update from Equipo Impacto. As always, it has been a very busy season for us in Cuba. We are really encouraged to see the progress being made by the pastors and Bible teachers whom we have the privilege to serve through Equipo Impacto. We are also encouraged to see more young pastors taking the Bible seriously and starting to expose their congregations to expositional preaching. The following is a summary of what has been happening since April:

We hosted four **Preaching Workshops**. From the very west of the Island in Pinar de Río to the very east in Maisí, the workshops have been strong. At Pinar del Río, for example, 80 percent of the participants were new to our workshops and they were very encouraged. We also had one close to the middle of the island in Villa Teresita, where we were able to train youth pastors from the



Eastern Baptist Convention. Something like half of them had

never been exposed to expositional preaching before. It was nice to see all the pastors from the area of Maisí returning for the third year in a row to participate in the workshop. Here, most of the participants have already implemented consecutive expository preaching in their churches. It was very exciting to hear their stories. Progress is being made! Also importantly, two of the workshops were completely facilitated



by Cuban instructors, men we have been training through these last few years.

In this period, we also finished the second year of our **Residential Training Programme** in Havana. We had a total of 19 students, 11 of whom are young men exploring full time vocational ministry. Most of the students are committed to continuing the training next year and some of them are even starting studies at a local seminary, but will also continue their training with us. This training is becoming a very important facet of the ministry of Equipo Impacto. It is, in some ways, the best way we have to influence and train the next generation of pastors. We continue to instill in them a focus



on expositional preaching, paving the way for healthy churches where the Word of God is the centre of a church's life and practice.

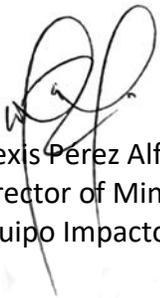
We have been also working in another very exciting opportunity, a **Seminary Partnership**. That is, we have been in conversation with the Eastern Baptist Seminary in Santiago de Cuba, one of the largest seminaries in Cuba. They educate and have influence over hundreds of pastors across the island and it is the official seminary for the Eastern Baptist Convention of Cuba. They have asked us to help them out by providing a modular expositional preaching class. We are in the process of developing a three-year curriculum in which we will cover all the literary genres of the Bible. While we begin with guest instructors, we will also be training local instructors to continue this work in the future. We are scheduled to start in September with Rev. Dr. Juan Sánchez joining us.

Finally, we want you to know that we are working hard on **COBIME 2018**, our national pastors conference that we host every three years. Our main speaker this year is going to be Bryan Chapell from Grace Presbyterian Church in Peoria, Illinois. He will be joined by Juan Sánchez, Miguel Nuñez and several other noteworthy speakers. With the growing influence and cost of the conference, we have decided to regionalise the conference with two venues: one in the east in Santiago de Cuba and one in the west in Havana. This will make it easier and cheaper for pastors from all over the island to participate. We are still working on raising the needed funds.

Prayer Requests:

1. For God to help us to keep the quality for the Preaching Workshops high as new instructors are stepping up and going to different places to lead.
2. For God to guide us to serve well the Eastern Baptist Seminary and for the students who will be trained this autumn.
3. For God to provide the \$7,000.00 USD still needed to run COBIME 2018.
4. For strength and wisdom as we go through the autumn, which will again be a very busy season with workshops and local church commitments.

To God and only to God be all the glory,



Alexis Pérez Alfonso
Director of Ministry
Equipo Impacto