

Partner's in Prayer

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Dear Friends,

It has been an interesting winter. In December we had cold and snow. Lots of snow. People tell us it was like it was here 50 years ago. We had snow on the ground for 24 days, including the first white Christmas in a decade. Here in Chilliwack where it seldom snows December and early January were very unusual. In mid-January everything changed. Temperatures rose back to normal but instead of rain we have had mainly sun. A sunny winter here where we usually see months of dreary, winter rain. Things are definitely topsy-turvy. Sometimes our lives get that way, a bit out of balance, different than normal. It's at those times it is so fantastic to have the presence of our living Saviour within us. If your life is topsy-turvy, make sure to seek the Lord.

January was hectic with lots of things happening. After a restful break at Christmas things started fast in January with lots of work and meetings for both of us. We also took a short vacation with friends from our church.

On February 1 Gary left for 11 days of meetings in Santiago, Dominican Republic. World Team Field Leaders from South America, North America and the Caribbean gathered to discuss what is happening in the Americas Area and to take part in some great training. We talked about World Team's Vision in the Americas Area and about taking care of our own relationship with the Lord. We shared with one another and prayed with one another. The new World Team International Director David Riddell and his wife Rebecca also took part in the meetings, talking about where World Team is headed in the coming years.



Gary in the Dominican Republic

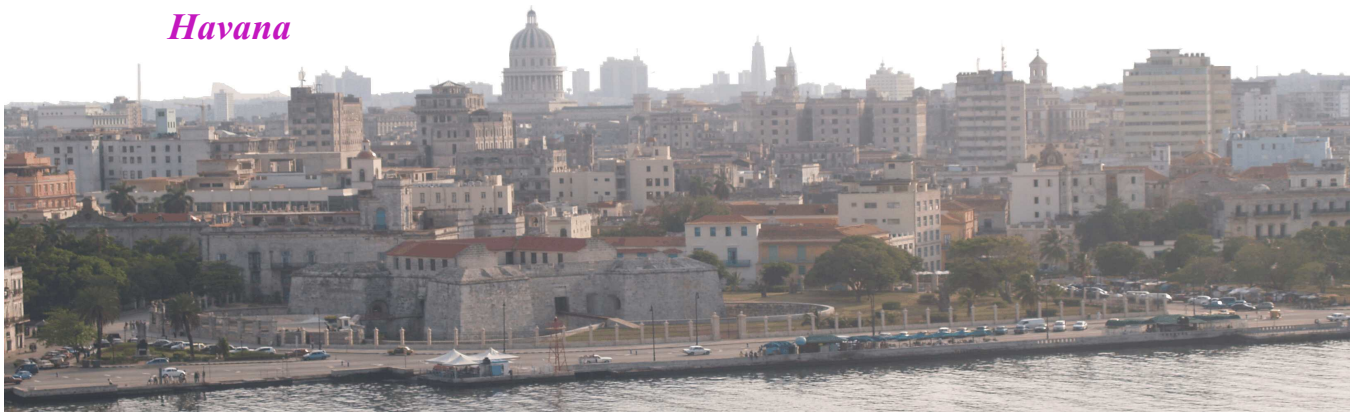


Gary with World Team Canada Director Bill Allan

One of the highlights of the meetings for Gary was a session on coaching. Missionaries like to preach and teach, often mentor, but are not always good at coaching which requires lots of listening, asking questions and very little input of information.

Santiago, Dominican Republic was our home for a while early in our time as missionaries. It was our first field assignment after leaving language school. While in Santiago Gary was able to talk with many people whom we knew when we lived there. Twenty years ago they were young adults or youth, now they are leaders in the church in which we ministered.

Havana



What's going on in Cuba? President Obama sounded like he was going to make changes to US Cuba policy, but now he is president it appears not much will change at all. Our hope was the US government would make it easier for World Team to raise funds and send money to Cuba to help with our many projects, but our latest application to the Treasury Department was denied. It is difficult to see so many needs yet not be able to help. ***Please pray about this situation and all of the United States Cuba Embargo legislation with which we have to contend.***

Lots is happening with our Los Pinos Nuevos denomination in Cuba. They are just about to begin a new thrust of church planting in Havana. This city of 3 million people is very "under churchd" for it's size. Many churches are needed and Los Pinos Nuevos church planters will soon begin ministry in the city. World Team missionary Paul Thompson will be travelling back and forth to Cuba helping to train church planters. ***Please ask the Lord to use Paul, to empower the new church planters and to work in the hearts of people who will hear the message of salvation.***

During the next two years World Team Americas Area Director Karry Kelley will be concentrating on finishing his seminary doctorate so the other members of the Americas Area Leadership Team will all be doing a bit of extra work, each taking some of his responsibilities. This includes Gary who will take on a lot more of the administrative and planning functions. It will entail a few more meetings and some more travel. ***Please pray for Karry as he works to finish his doctorate, and for Gary and others who will be carrying heavier loads for the next two years.***

David and Christy are working hard at the University of the Fraser Valley, already looking forward to the end of classes. In January David made Sandra's birthday cake - a first! Sandra is busy working with women almost every day in Bible studies, mentoring and evangelism. February 14 through 22 she looked after four foster children so their foster parents could take a vacation. In our weekly schedules we try and balance work, time with family, time with the Lord, time for ourselves, time with Christians, and time with those who don't know Jesus as their own personal Saviour. We're sure you do the same and know it isn't always easy. ***Please pray with us that we will find the right balance in life.***



David made Sandra's birthday cake!

Thank you for your prayers and partnership in ministry with us. We really appreciate you.

In Jesus' love,

Gary Sandra David Christy
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