

The Pilgrim Way

The months of February and March found me in the U.S. visiting churches and friends, while Barbi and Carissa stayed in Costa Rica. These were two very intense months of travel, speaking, and presenting our ministry in Costa Rica and Cuba, and, yes, even teaching an online course in the midst of all my sundry activity. At the same time they were two months of great fellowship. It was wonderful to have had the opportunity to pay a visit to family members, see long-time friends, and meet new friends along the way. I only regret that I was unable to see all of you and spend time necessary to not only share what we have done since our last furlough, but also to hear about all that you have experienced and how the Lord has been at work in your lives. It does encourage us to hear your stories of the Lord's faithfulness to you and yours.

Upon returning to Costa Rica, I came down with the flu that put in on my back for the greater part of last week. I think it was just my body's way of saying I needed to give it its required rest. By Sunday I was back on my feet and able to celebrate the resurrection of Christ with my Costa Rican brothers and sisters. I am now ready to take on the work at hand.

ProMETA

This coming week ProMETA's international team will gather here in San Jose, Costa Rica for our annual meeting. This year Dr. Mark Hendrickson is leading us in a seminar entitled, *Designing Seminary Courses for Transformational Learning*, the focus of which is the integration of spiritual formation and instructional design. Mark has worked long and hard on this project and I had the privilege of serving both as a catalyst for its inception and a consultant in for the final revision—a catalyst in that I wrote a white paper for the team in 2008 that sought to give voice and definition to a biblical worldview of our work as theological educators who take seriously the spiritual formation of our students. Mark used my manuscript as a guide for developing the philosophy of education and its implementation in designing our courses. I'm looking forward to his presentation and the discussions that will follow with our team. But most of all I'm looking forward to applying what we are learning to the courses I write for ProMETA. After a couple of days of good teaching and another couple of days of intense work on issues concerning the ministry, the team is taking a three-day spiritual retreat in the mountains of Costa Rica at Whitworth University southern campus—a beautiful retreat center.

Cuba

My next trip to Cuba is rapidly approaching at the end of this month. I will be leading a 5-day seminar for the pastors who teach in *Seminario Los Pinos Nuevos* extension program. The theme of the seminar, per the request of the Cuban church leaders, is how modern educational philosophy based on the Enlightenment has impacted theological education and how to overcome some of its more detrimental effects. I will be joined by my colleague, Dr. Enrique Fernandez, and the president of Latin America Mission, Steve Johnson. A secondary, but no less necessary, goal of the seminar is to do team building among the pastors/professors who seldom have the opportunity to gather. One interesting aside is that we will be in Havana on May 1st when the country is celebrating the International Workers' Day, which is a national holiday and a time of celebration for the communist revolution.

Praise and Prayer

- Praise the Lord with us for his goodness in giving me the opportunity to share with many old and new friends.
- Please pray for ProMETA online ministry, especially as the team gathers here in Costa Rica.
- Please pray for my trip to Cuba, which is scheduled from April 28 to May 7. Pray not only that the Lord will bless the seminar, but also give guidance as I meet with Cuban church leaders to talk about future ministry opportunities on the needy island.

Jeff, Barb, & Carissa

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