

My trip to Cuba was certainly an experience of a lifetime that will be with me forever. This trip was such a unique experience, and such an eye opening one. Staying at Camp Canaan was so much fun, along with staying with Pastor Isel in his home, and being able to visit all of our sister churches. It was so easy to see God's love and work wherever we went. This trip allowed me to see Methodism in a raw form of a different culture. It made me rethink many things and opened my eyes to what it really means to be a Christian.

Camp Canaan was certainly one like no other. Hundreds of students between the ages of 11 and 17 from all over the island of Cuba were able to attend this camp. There was only one other group from America besides us. There was a group of five adults from North Carolina. While at this camp I noticed a couple of things different than America. Their prayers were very enthusiastic. Whenever someone was praying they would be preaching with all their heart and allowing God to speak through them!

Another thing I noticed was a lot of people being slayed by the spirit and that being a normal thing. I have never seen that before then and didn't quite understand it. The only thing I knew was that it was in the name of God. I saw this throughout the week at the camp and just respected their culture and form of Methodism and let it be. Now throughout my life I have had times where I would doubt God's existence; As it's hard to believe in something you can't feel or touch. The last day at that camp I realized what was truly happening. They would be giving their body to the Lord and he would flood them with his love and their body couldn't do anything but give out. How can you doubt in something when you are watching so many people be affected in such a major way by him. You can no longer deny his existence when you see proof such as that. What more proof do you need?

After leaving the camp we had a flat tire, in the middle of nowhere, with no spare. Now most people would become worried or even frustrated with the situation. Pastor Isel didn't worry at all. This doesn't just go for this instance, but in general the people over there are so more relaxed about everything. Now that is because they have such a strong faith that God will fix whatever is wrong and that everything happens because God let it happen. Instead of worrying and stressing or becoming frustrated, they would sit back and pray, and let God take care of the situation and they would know that it would turn out for the best.

While visiting our sister churches, we saw people who had nothing, but were still happy. They knew God had a plan for them and that they were in his hands. We saw people that were blown away and so thankful for receiving such a small gift of deodorant, soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. It is mind blowing that people can even live in some of the conditions that we saw while we were over there.

While I was over there I realized God's plan for me, and after getting back I have only moved forward in that plan. I believe God's plan for me is to travel the world in His name and to spread His word to people who have no idea about God or Jesus. I have changed my major from just business administration to a dual major in business administration and theology. I am currently looking into Florida Southern College, which is Methodist based. There I can complete my dual major in three years and take a ten month internship opportunity to North Africa focusing on both my majors.

I would really just like to thank everyone who helped make this opportunity a reality. Everyone who supported, donated, and most importantly prayed for my group and I along our travels. This was a trip of a lifetime that I will never forget.

Thank You,

Conor Peters