

CUBA MISSION TRIP

July 23-30 our brothers and sisters in Cuba held their annual summer camping ministry. Several youth and young adults from Friedberg Moravian Church and Esamos Unidos Moravian Ministry (both in Winston Salem) attended the camp. This team also made it possible for campers and staff from the Moravian Church in Costa Rica to join the camp, as well. Together, they studied the book of Philipians, participated in Bible Olympics, worshipped God, learned about the Moravian Church in Cuba and about the many cultures represented in the group (Peruvian, Mexican, Costa Rican, U.S., and Cuban).



Mission team member Michele Decker shares about her experience. "I was able to participate in camp and build last relationship based on God's love. My purpose of helping with camp and growing closer to God and others was accomplished. The cultural challenge was the language barrier. The physical barrier was the heat and lack of water. I will continue to try and strengthen my language skills. I learn the joy of God's love no matter what you do or do not have. I learn the importance of truly understanding and digging into the Bible."

Chloe Williamson shares about her experience in Cuba. "We were able to fellowship and create lifelong relationships with Moravians in Cuba. We grew our love for Christ together! We did indeed fulfill our purpose. We encountered lack of resources that we are provided in substantial amounts here in America. We were also challenged with a language barrier for those of us who are not fluent in Spanish. We were, however, able to communicate through a common language, which was our love for Christ and knowledge of the Bible. We also communicated through music. While in Cuba, we did have to adjust to the lack of resources, but it was an enlightening experience to see how others live, and still count their blessings. I learned to appreciate the things that I am given and blessed with, and also how to have a greater passion and love for Christ and my church."

Mission team member, Katie Hill, also shares about her experience in Cuba. "We were able to form relationships in Christ with many of the people there. We also were able to make connections with people that we have continued to stay in touch with when we got back. I experienced a cultural change that has to do with spirituality. I as well as my group recognized that the way in which Cuba and other countries worship God is much more spiritual and truthful than the way we worship God here in America. The challenge will be to bring back here the way they worshiped there. I learned the extent to which God should be taken serious and worshiped seriously with joyfulness."



We want to remind you that the Mission Society is offering funds applications for short-term mission trips. These can be used for Laurel Ridge mission camp at \$50, and for other mission trips further afield at \$125 for domestic, and \$300 for international mission trips. Please contact the Mission Society for the application form.