



# Latin America Ministry Team

June 2006

**CRWRC**

*Living Justice, Loving Mercy*

Dear Friends:

Greetings from Haiti! It was a privilege to be able to meet personally with many of you while we were on "home" service during the spring. The churches we visited were very encouraging and supportive. Since results in Haiti are sometimes interrupted, we appreciate the positive support of so many and are encouraged to know that you continue to pray for this country's situation. On the other hand, it's also great to be back home in Haiti, where I no longer shiver despite five layers of clothing.



*The Australia CRC discipleship group meets outside.*

in 17 organized churches. This active denomination also has several mission posts and at least a dozen "houses of prayer" that reach out to new communities.

**Diaconal vision.** Functioning within a controlled society can be a challenge, but our Cuban brothers and sisters have creatively found ways to do so. They have a very active diaconal ministry. CRWRC supports the deacons in 14 churches to provide loans for 57 families in need. The government discourages small business development, but raising pigs is allowed, so many have chosen that avenue to supplement their government wage.

Most of the churches are in the Matanzas province, which has seen its share of hurricanes in the last couple of years. The diaconal committee has received support from CRWRC for home repair and has worked in relationship with the local governments, to maximize the work that can be done.

With a grant from another organization, several churches were able to purchase washing machines and provide laundry service for the elderly in the community, who have been neglected. They



**Cuba.** Shortly after arriving home, I headed off to Cuba to participate in an evaluation of the Christian Reformed Church there. The CRCNA's mission to Cuba was established in 1957, to support a group of fledgling congregations.

Currently there is a membership of 750

coordinate with the local government to identify those who are in need.

**Praying for Cuba.** A remnant of the church remained faithful during the difficult years following the revolution. Because of that solid base, the church was able to flourish when many restrictions were rescinded. Praise God for this growth! Pray that the leadership will be wise when facing new transitions they face and that pastors will be blessed in their challenging work with congregations.



*The CRC of Bolondrón*

**Family Update.** Caspar was able to advance in his master's program, but there still is a long road to travel. He has about one year of course work left, but because of sequencing, the soonest he'll finish is June 2008. It's nice to have him here in Haiti for the summer!

Reuben decided to go to school full time and applied to four schools in Canada. He is still waiting to get the final word and make a decision, but is leaning toward an option in Nova Scotia. It seems even farther away to us, but then Ottawa wasn't exactly close to Haiti.

*Shalom,*

*Leanne*

from the Geisterfers

& Caspar

*We love to hear from you too!*

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