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Maranatha Volunteers International is an organization committed to building people through the construction of urgently needed buildings.

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NEW SEMINARY CHURCH IN CUBA

CUBAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS DEDICATE NEW SEMINARY CHURCH

Maranatha Volunteers International dedicated the Cuba Seventh-day Adventist Seminary’s first-ever church building in Havana on March 26. The event was the culmination of a long process of obtaining building permits and raising the necessary funds.

Maranatha built the Seminary ten years ago. A church was part of the master plan, but could not be built at that time. Maranatha broke ground on the new church three years ago and worked on the building as funds were available. When donations ran out, progress halted.

Most Adventist pastors currently serving in Cuba’s 294 Adventist churches are trained at the Havana Seminary. Seminary students have spent the past several years reaching out to their communities in anticipation of a church. They visited every home in their neighborhoods, giving Bible studies and inviting people to worship.

“A Seventh-day Adventist Church in a climate like Cuba can make a tremendous impact,” said Maranatha President Don Noble. “Every time Maranatha has constructed a church building in Cuba over the past 17 years, the congregation has grown quickly, and the positive impact on the community is wonderful to observe. Life is often challenging for the people, and knowing that the world church cares and has provided them a place to worship gives them hope and inspires them to witness to their neighbors and friends.”

“This building is a palpable example of how religious liberty has made progress in Cuba,” Caridad Diego, minister of religion for Cuba, told the congregation. “The Seventh-day Adventist Church’s presence here has been a blessing to our communities. This building and the Seminary will contribute to society so we’ll all be better off.”

The remaining dollars to fund the building came in just before the dedication service, answering the prayers of many.

“The building is fabulous. It’s beautiful. It’s exactly what we hoped it would be,” Noble said. “From the time we walked on this campus 15 years ago when it was just trees, to the point now where it’s
SUMMER FAMILY PROJECT

REGISTER NOW FOR THE SUMMER FAMILY PROJECT

Join us this summer on an adventure that will change your life and bring you closer together as a family unit.

Maranatha holds the popular Christmas Family Project every year, but this year the organization is adding a family project during the summer. Volunteers on this project, held June 16 to 26 in Choluteca, Honduras, will help paint the large Education and Evangelism Center and build One-Day classrooms on the Adventist school campus. The group will also construct One-Day churches throughout the region.

"One thing that makes the Family Project unique is that it's like campmeeting with a service component," says Steve Case, project leader.

Visit our online project calendar for more information and to register for this special project.
MARANATHA HOLDS MULTIPLE GROUP PROJECT

Eighty-three volunteers recently returned from Tapachula and Teotihoucan in Chiapas, Mexico as part of Maranatha’s Multiple Group Project. This unique mission trip provides an opportunity for groups that are too small to take on a project of their own.

The project, held March 17 to 27, was made up of small groups, family units and several individuals, including dad-daughter teams and three-generation combinations. The largest small group was made up of 14 students from HMS Richards Adventist School in Loveland, Colo. “We became a closely knitted large group very quickly,” says Steve Case, project leader. “We drew heavily on the small groups for physicians, nurses, construction leaders and children’s ministry leaders.”

The groups built two churches, which both became the central meeting place for the entire region. “The whole community showed up on Sabbath,” says Case. “We were welcomed in their schools. We taught English and other things to the students.” The group also held medical clinics and children’s programs for the community.

This was the first time in several years Maranatha has hosted the Multiple Group Project.
NOW PLAYING

Watch this week’s episode of Maranatha Mission Stories for a look into how the One-Day School is changing the lives for thousands of children worldwide. This episode will air on Hope Channel Sunday at 9 p.m. PDT and Thursday at 5 p.m. PDT.

A special feature will also air this weekend on Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN). Well-known television host and evangelist Mark Finley walks us through Zimbabwe, where Seventh-day Adventist church members are experiencing miracles through new church and school buildings. This program, originally scheduled to air April 1 and 2, was postponed by 3ABN until April 8. Join us for this special on Friday at 6:30 p.m. You can also watch the episode online now.