

The Alliance of Baptists  
1328 16th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
202.745.7609  
866.745.7609  
[www.allianceofbaptists.org](http://www.allianceofbaptists.org)

Aug. 31, 2006

This document contains the response the Alliance of Baptists, through its attorney, filed with the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the United States government on Aug. 31, 2006, in response to a pre-penalty notice filed July 5. OFAC alleges that five churches violated the terms of the license that it had granted the Alliance for member churches to travel to Cuba by not engaging in full-time religious activities while on mission in Cuba. The churches identified are Baptist Church of the Covenant in Birmingham, AL; Glendale Baptist Church in Nashville, TN; and First Baptist churches in Washington, DC, Savannah, GA, and Greenville, SC.

We do not know when we will receive a response from OFAC.

Executive Director Stan Hastey  
[shastey@allianceofbaptists.org](mailto:shastey@allianceofbaptists.org)

Board Chair Jim Hopkins  
[labc4jim@pacbell.net](mailto:labc4jim@pacbell.net)

**LAZARUS & ASSOCIATES**  
**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

**SUITE 400, 1850 M STREET, N.W.**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-5803**

**KENNETH A. LAZARUS**  
LAZARUSLAW@AOL.COM

**TEL: (202) 457-0380**  
**FAX: (202) 452-1822**

August 31, 2006

Assistant Director, Civil Penalties  
Office of Foreign Assets Control  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20220

**Hand-Delivered By Messenger**  
**Envelope Marked "Urgent: Part 501 Action"**

Re: **FAC No. CT-239771**

**RESPONSE TO PROPOSED PREPENALTY NOTICE**

Dear Sir or Madam:

1. In accordance with 31 C.F.R. § 501.704, please be advised that the undersigned, Kenneth A. Lazarus, a member in good standing of the bars of the Supreme Court of the United States and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, hereby enters his appearance on behalf of the Alliance of Baptists ("the Alliance") of 1328 16<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. (See Notice to Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC"), copy attached hereto at **Tab 1**).

2. The Alliance is a tax-exempt organization, established in accordance with Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, for purely charitable purposes. It serves the interests of many Baptist congregations around the country and has for many years enjoyed a partnership with the Fraternidad de Iglesias Bautistas de Cuba,

the primary purpose of which is to establish church-to-church relationships between Cuban and Alliance-affiliated Baptist churches.

3. On May 14, 1999, the Alliance was issued its first OFAC License (No. C-37069), authorizing travel to Cuba for religious purposes by members of its affiliated churches during the period 1999-2001. A second License (No. CU-37069-a) was issued to the Alliance extending its authorization through 2002 and a third License (No. CU-028847) was issued, to expire on February 28, 2004. On November 20, 2003, the Alliance was issued its fourth License (No. CT-1068), extending its authorization to November 30, 2005.

4. Pursuant to its most recent License (No. CT-1068), a number of groups affiliated with the Alliance traveled to Cuba on trips originating in December of 2003, January of 2004, March of 2004, June of 2004, July of 2004, August of 2004, November of 2004, December of 2004 and March of 2005.

5. Under date of April 1, 2005, the Alliance received a "Requirement to Furnish Information" from J. Robert **McBrien**, OFAC's Acting Chief of Enforcement. Mr. **McBrien's** letter indicated that an investigation was being conducted regarding alleged misuse of License No. CT-1068. Any source or sources of such alleged misuse were not identified. The Alliance was directed to provide OFAC with a detailed report with respect to all Cuba travel-related transactions pursuant to the License, including a list of trips, each traveler, itineraries, any agreements between the Alliance and travelers, any fees paid to the Alliance by travelers and the names of air travel and other service providers. The letter indicated that a report was due from the Alliance

~~within~~ 15 business days from receipt of the letter.

6. Under date of April 16, 2005, Rev. Stanley L. Hastey, Executive Director ~~of the~~ Alliance, responded to Mr. McBrien's "Requirement to Furnish Information." Rev. **Hastey** forwarded along various travel and transaction information provided to him by church travelers, some of which may have been a bit inaccurate or misleading with respect to travel details. He indicated that there were no agreements between the Alliance and travelers and that no fees were paid to the Alliance by travelers. He also summarized the positive religious results of the travel.

7. Under date of June 23, 2005, Elizabeth W. Farrow, OFAC's Acting Chief ~~of~~ Licensing, sent a Notice of License Suspension letter to Rev. Hastey, indicating that **"we** have reason to believe that you have failed to adequately supervise the use of your license." Further, Ms. Farrow charged that upon "review of the March 10-16, 2005 travel itinerary for a trip conducted by the Baptist Church of the Covenant under the auspices of [the Alliance], it appears that the group did not engage in a full-time schedule of religious activities as required by the license." Finally, Ms. Farrow specified as follows:

" The itinerary included approximately four hours of religious activities each day, on average. The rest of the time was filled with walking and driving tours, sightseeing and beach time in Varadero, and visits to farms, museums and crafts markets."

Ms. Farrow announced that License No. CT-1068 was suspended until such time as OFAC's Enforcement Division completed its investigation of the matter, at which time it "may be either reinstituted or revoked." Rev. Hastey was advised that he and the

Alliance "may be subject to civil or criminal penalties for violation of any law or regulations administered by OFAC."

8. Under date of July 5, 2006, Elton A. Ellison, OFAC's Acting Assistant Director of Civil Penalties, sent a "PREPENALTY NOTICE" to Rev. Hasteley. The notice indicates that OFAC "has reason to believe" that the Alliance violated its license. It specifically charges that "five churches, with groups traveling under [License] CT-1-68, provided itineraries that did not reflect a program of full-time religious activity." The five churches are not identified. The notice proposes that the Alliance pay a penalty of \$34,000 to OFAC. The Alliance is advised that it may challenge the alleged violation and/or the amount of the proposed penalty in writing within a period of sixty (60) days or, instead, elect to enter into settlement discussions with OFAC officials.

9. This Response is submitted in accordance with 31 C.F.R. §§ 501.703 and 501.707 and the Prepenalty Notice sent to Rev. Hasteley under date of July 5, 2006. The Alliance denies that the five church groups engaged in any impermissible conduct or transactions as alleged in the Prepenalty Notice and that the Alliance thereby failed to fulfill its responsibilities under relevant regulations.

10. The sworn Affidavit of Stanley Leroy Hasteley, Executive Director of the Alliance, reciting the details of a telephone conversation he had on July 25, 2006, with **Ms.** Jennifer Crum of OFAC's Civil Penalties Division, is attached hereto at **Tab 2**. In that telephone conversation, Ms. Crum identified the five church groups which allegedly engaged in impermissible conduct or transactions during particular trips, as follows:

- a. Baptist Church of the Covenant, Birmingham, Alabama (trip of March 2005);
- b. First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, D.C. (trip of March 2005);
- c. Glendale Baptist Church of Nashville, Tennessee (trip of May 2004);
- d. First Baptist Church of Savannah, Georgia (trip of January 2004); and
- e. First Baptist Church of Greenville, South Carolina (trip beginning in December 2003).

**Ms.** Crum also indicated to Rev. Hastey that all of the specific violations committed by the five church groups stemmed from their engaging "in a lot of tourist activities."

11. Attached hereto are the sworn Affidavits of church leaders participating in each of the five trips recited in ¶ 10, supra, as follows:

**Tab 3** - Affidavit of Charles Todd Heifner, member of the Baptist Church of the Covenant, Birmingham, Alabama;

**Tab 4** - Affidavit of James Green Somerville, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, D.C.;

**Tab 5** - Affidavit of David Gooch, member of the Glendale Baptist Church of Nashville, Tennessee;

**Tab 6** - Affidavit of John Miller Finley, Senior Minister of the First Baptist Church of Savannah, Georgia; and

**Tab 7** - Affidavit of Louise W. Stafford, member of the First Baptist Church of Greenville, South Carolina.

12. I believe that the above-referenced Affidavits effectively refute any preliminary conclusions drawn by OFAC staff to the effect that the trips in question involved substantial tourist activities or any failure on the part of the Alliance to

adequately supervise its License.

13. If you or other offices within OFAC have any relevant evidence provided **by** unidentified sources or gathered by OFAC staff, I request that you make it available **to** me as soon as possible in order that I may have an opportunity to refute it directly. **In** the event you make a claim of confidentiality with respect to the source of any such evidence, I request that you advise me of the substance of such evidence, without revealing its source.

14. I would also appreciate being advised of the rationale for the amount of the proposed penalty set forth in the Prepenalty Notice (\$34,000) which may also call into question potential adjudicative facts.

15. I am hopeful that, upon review of the Affidavits, you will conclude that the imposition of any penalty against the Alliance would be highly inappropriate and that you will see fit to restore its license. **Your consideration is appreciated.**

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Lazarus

cc: Rev. Stanley L. Haste

LAZARUS ■ ASSOCIATES  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-5803

KENNETH A. LAZARUS  
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August 29, 2006

Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20220

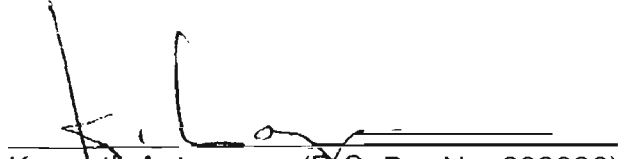
**Certified Mail**

Re: **Fac No. CT-239771**

**NOTICE OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, in accordance with 31 C.F.R. § 501.704, the undersigned, Kenneth A. Lazarus, a member in good standing of the bars of the Supreme Court of the United States and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, hereby enters his appearance of record on behalf of the Alliance of Baptists ("Alliance") of 1328 16<sup>th</sup> street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, relevant to any OFAC penalties or claims against the Alliance arising under the Cuban Assets Control Regulations (31 C.F.R. Part 515). Please confirm your receipt of this Notice.

All correspondence and communications to the Alliance relevant to the Cuban Assets Control Regulations should hereafter be directed to Mr. Lazarus.

  
Kenneth A. Lazarus (D.C. Bar No. 232926)

cc: Rev. Stanley L. Hastey



## **AFFIDAVIT OF STANLEY LEROY HASTEY**

**Stanley LeRoy HasteY**, being duly sworn upon his oath, states as follows:

On Thursday, July 6, 2006, I received a Prepenalty Notice from the Department of the Treasury dated July 5, 2006, notifying me of a violation of specific license No. CT-1068 issued to the Alliance of Baptists for the purpose of authorized travel to Cuba. The purported violation was stated thus: "Specifically, five churches, with groups traveling under CT-1068, provided itineraries that did not reflect a program of full-time religious activity." The proposed penalty was set at \$34,000.

In addition, the Prepenalty Notice specified that Jennifer Crum in the Civil Penalties Division of the Office of Foreign Assets Control would be available "to discuss settlement of this matter with you" and to answer questions "regarding this process." On Tuesday, July 18, I called the number given in the notice for Ms. Crum and left a recorded message. Likewise on Thursday, July 20, and Monday, July 24, I attempted to reach Ms. Crum by telephone and left messages.

On Tuesday, July 25, Ms. Crum returned my calls explaining that she had been away from her office for several days and expressing regret for the delay in responding. We then engaged in a conversation of approximately 10-15 minutes, a conversation that was at once professional and pleasant. Ms. Crum was courteous in responding to my questions and helpful in explaining the options open to the Alliance in responding to the Prepenalty Notice. According to my notes and to the best of my recollection, what follows is a summary of our conversation.

Although she did not volunteer to identify the five churches by name, upon questioning she identified them as (1) Baptist Church of the Covenant, Birmingham, Alabama (trip of March 2005); (2) First Baptist Church, Washington, D.C. (March 2005); (3) Glendale Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee (May 2004); (4) First Baptist Church, Savannah, Georgia (January 2004); and (5) First Baptist Church, Greenville, South Carolina (December 2003-January 2004).

When I asked her about specific violations, Ms. Crum said only that her review of the itineraries of church delegations that traveled under authorization of the Alliance license from November 2003 through April 2005 indicated that these five groups of travelers had engaged "in a lot of tourist activities." To my question of the kind of information she would expect in my response, Ms. Crum replied she would be looking for "a fuller picture" of what these delegations did while in Cuba and for "common mitigating factors" that might explain better their itineraries.

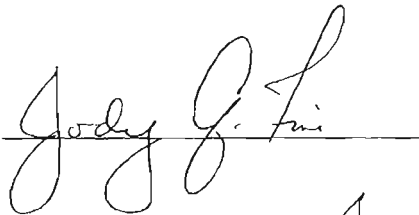
When I asked why only Baptist Church of the Covenant had been cited for a violation that resulted in the suspension of our license on June 23, 2005, Ms. Crum told me the previous action had proceeded from the Licensing Division rather than from the Civil Penalties Division where she works.

Finally, Ms. Crum told me that should we decide to waive the formal response and subsequent review, we could enter into an "informal settlement process" by submitting an offer of a monetary settlement that then would be taken under advisement. The advantage of this informal process, she stated, was that there would be no "formal finding of agency violation."



**Stanley LeRoy Hastey**

Sworn and subscribed to before me on this 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2006.



**NOTARY PUBLIC**, District of Columbia

My commission expires January 14, 2011.

## AFFIDAVIT OF CHARLES TODD HEIFNER

Charles Todd Heifner, being duly sworn upon his oath, states as follows:

I am a lay member of Baptist Church of the Covenant in Birmingham, Alabama, and led my congregation's delegation to Cuba under the authority conferred by License No. CT-1068, issued to the Alliance of Baptists on November 20, 2003.

My traveling companions were: John Awbrey Duke, Lynda Jentsch Grooms, Francisco Marquez Garcia, Grace Ezell Marquez, Christine Weeks Martin, and Peggy Sanderford Ponder. This was our inaugural trip to Cuba and we were met there by Stan Hastey, Executive Director of the Alliance of Baptists.

Our trip to Cuba covered the period Thursday, March 10, 2005 to Wednesday, March 16, 2005.

The purpose of our travel to Cuba was religious in nature. In particular, we went to Cuba for the purpose of learning of the work of Baptist Christians in that country, meeting with pastors and members of various congregations in Cuba with the hope of discerning which congregation might be the best fit for a sister church relationship with our church in Birmingham. We were particularly interested in exploring the possibility of a sister church relationship with the Shalom Baptist Church of Boca de Mariel, Cuba, given a number of similarities between our congregations.

We fulfilled the religious purpose of our trip by gaining a good historical overview of the work of Baptist Christians in Cuba, meeting all morning on Friday, March 11 with the staff and elected leadership of our partnering denominational body -- the Fraternidad de Iglesias Bautistas de Cuba (Fraternity of Baptist Churches of Cuba). After our meeting with the staff and leadership, we spent a significant portion of our time on that first afternoon with the family of Manolo Delgado, the Executive Director of the Fraternidad. We enjoyed getting to know more about his family, his Christian pilgrimage, his leadership of the Fraternidad and its churches, and the call of God that Manolo felt on his own life to leave a professional career as an engineer and devote himself fully to the work of the Church. Due to the time we spent with Manolo and his family that day and the four hour drive, we did not arrive in Varadero where we were staying in a dormitory at the Presbyterian Center until early evening. They prepared dinner for us at the Presbyterian Center once we arrived. We decided to forego a planned trip to worship with the congregation of Christ Lives Baptist Church in Matanzas Province given the late hour and the need for several members of our delegation to rest. Manolo Delgado and Stan Hastey, Executive Director of the Alliance of Baptists did continue on to the church, returning from services late into the evening.

On Saturday, March 12, we visited the First Baptist Church of Matanzas and met their former pastor. He discussed with us the genesis of the work of the Fraternidad, since he had been instrumental in its formation in the early 1990's. That day, we also visited the Evangelical Seminary of Cuba in Matanzas. Manolo shared his dream and vision that one

~~day~~ there might exist a Baptist House of Studies at the Seminary. We even had the opportunity to visit the particular site where the Fraternidad hopes to build the Baptist House of Studies on their campus. That evening we returned to Havana to reflect and prepare ourselves for the next day when we would meet the members of the Shalom Baptist Church.

To learn of the work at the Shalom Baptist Church in Boca de Mariel, Cuba, we worshipped, shared a meal, and fellowshiped with the congregation on Sunday, March 13. We had a wonderful time getting to know the families who make up the congregation of this committed church. We especially enjoyed walking from their current meeting location in a home in Boca de Mariel to the site of their new church building just a few blocks away. This new space includes a worship area, rooms for Bible Study and mission activities, and living quarters for their pastor. After our time with the congregation at Shalom, we spent much of the afternoon with the family of Corita Blanco at her home, getting to know more about this committed young pastor of the Shalom Baptist Church and her call to serve Christ in this place. Late that afternoon and into the early evening we attended services at the Baptist Church of the Way in Guanajay before returning to Havana.

That evening after we returned to Havana, most of the members of our group became ill with a stomach infection. My roommate was sick that evening through the night until morning.

Early Monday, March 14, I was met by our driver and Pastor Corita Blanco and taken to the office of the Cuban Council of Churches in Havana. Due to our Associate Pastor John Duke still being ill, I was honored to replace him and bring the weekly devotional message for the staff of the Cuban Council of Churches. Using his notes from his Sunday sermon and some devotional thoughts of my own, I spoke through a translator to this group. What a wonderful opportunity and a privilege I felt I had been given as a layperson, to share of my own faith with this ecumenical group of clergy representing so many different denominations. After the devotion time, I had the opportunity to meet several of these very committed Christians. That afternoon, several of our group who felt well enough to travel visited the Guanabacoa farm and museum, the site of a Baptist Encampment that has been constructed on the edge of a massive garbage dump. It is a place where Baptists churches and groups from around Cuba come when they want to meet for a retreat or wish to spend time building community. It is also a dormitory-style facility with a kitchen and meeting space. Our pastor at Shalom, Corita Blanco, spent the entire day with us on Monday, allowing for continued dialogue and discernment concerning the possibility of an ongoing relationship between their congregation and ours back in Birmingham.

On Tuesday, March 14, most of our group was still sick and I also became ill that day. Our group stayed in Havana that day in order to gain back our strength for our return trip to the States the following day. We were originally scheduled to visit two churches in western Pinar del Rio Province that day, but due to the illness in our group, we decided to cancel this part of our itinerary. Instead, we opted for a driving tour around Havana to

better understand the city, its residents, and their culture. That day, several members of our group also spent approximately 30 minutes at a craft market within walking distance of our hotel. Also on Tuesday, we spent the day with Pastor Corita Blanco and Manolo Delgado discussing ways that our two churches – Shalom Baptist and Baptist Church of the Covenant – might be in partnership with one another. Our group took some time later that evening to reflect on our experiences, the people we had met, the work of Baptist Christians across the island of Cuba through the Fraternidad, and the dedication and diligence of the folks at Shalom. We discussed what a partnership might mean for our church back home and how we might formalize our desire to partner with these committed Christians. Specifically, we discussed what we planned to report back to our congregation at Baptist Church of the Covenant when we returned home. We spent a good portion of this day discerning how best to proceed.

Early Wednesday morning, March 16, we were met by our driver, Corita Blanco, and Manolo Delgado and driven to the airport in Havana. We said our farewells to these new friends, assuring them of our prayers and our intention to be in partnership with them in the days ahead. We boarded our flight and left to return home.

Apart from the cost of travel to and from Cuba and expenses related to lodging and meals while in Cuba, I spent \$130 while in Cuba, exceeding the spending limit by \$30. I believe that those traveling with me limited their miscellaneous spending to less than \$100 while in Cuba. We understood that certain purchases as outlined in the regulations are permitted, including books, recordings, and other similar educational materials.

While in Cuba, we did seek to gain a broad understanding of the Cuban people and culture. Any activity we engaged in that might be classified as "tourist" or "sightseeing" in nature was an attempt on our part to better understand the people with whom we planned to partner. It was wholly educational and religious in nature. We were blessed to have our Cuban counterparts who diligently took us to points of interest to bring some perspective to the scope of the work of the Fraternidad. They helped us understand their culture and their people. I was never made aware that any of our incidental and relatively minor sightseeing and tourist activities violated the law in any way, and I do not believe that anyone in my group or that I personally did anything contrary to the interests of the United States while we were in Cuba.

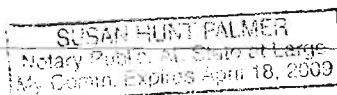


Charles Todd Heifner

Sworn and subscribed to before me on this 30 of August 2006.

  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires



## **AFFIDAVIT OF JAMES GREEN SOMERVILLE**

JAMES GREEN SOMERVILLE, being duly sworn upon his oath, states as follows:

1. I am the Pastor of the First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, D.C.
2. During the period March 7 to March 14, 2005, I traveled to Cuba under the authority of OFAC License No. CT-1068 which was issued to the Alliance of Baptists. My church is a member of the Alliance.
3. Joining me on the trip to Cuba were Messrs. Allen Millikan and David Bruce Traggorth. We traveled to Cuba for the purpose of strengthening and encouraging the William Carey Baptist Church in Havana, with which we have had a partnership for several years.
4. While in Cuba, we attended worship services and prayer meetings. I led worship and preached five times. We visited a mission church in Guanimar, did some outreach and evangelism, met with the local pastor and staff, visited the local Baptist association and a retreat center and engaged in other religious activities..
5. To the best of my recollection, while in Cuba, the only tourist and sightseeing activities we engaged in involved visiting two museums, shopping for some souvenirs in Old Havana and enjoying a meal in the plaza of the Cathedral de San Cristobal.
6. Putting aside the cost of travel, lodging and meals, I spent less than \$100 during my stay in Cuba and I believe that Messrs. Millikan and Traggorth spent roughly the same amount. We understood that OFAC permits the purchase of books, recordings and similar educational materials and we complied with those rules as we understood them.

7. I was never aware that any of my incidental and relatively minor tourist activities, as described above, could possibly violate the law in any way. Certainly, it was not our intention to act in any way contrary to the interests of the United States.

8. My host in Cuba, Pastor of the William Carey Baptist Church, suggested that the most helpful way in which we could partner with his church was to get to know the history, culture and customs of the Cuban people. For this reason, it was suggested that we briefly visit the museums, stroll the streets of Havana and sit in the public squares. We practiced our (poor) Spanish and tried to get a feel for the city and its inhabitants. I considered all of this to be part and parcel of our religious partnership with the William Carey Baptist Church and all of it occurred on the one day when we visited Old Havana.

9. I trust this will help to clarify that we did not violate the terms of the License granted to the Alliance of Baptists.

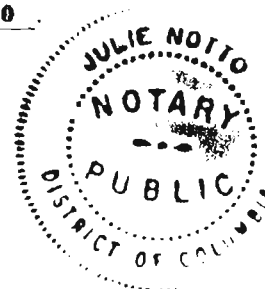
  
JAMES GREEN SOMERVILLE

Sworn and subscribed to before me on this 23rd day of August, 2006.

  
NOTARY PUBLIC

Julie Notto  
Notary Public  
District of Columbia  
My Commission Expires Jan. 14, 2010

My commission expires \_\_



## **AFFIDAVIT OF DAVID GOOCH**

DAVID GOOCH, being duly sworn upon his oath, states as follows:

1. I am a member (lay person) of Glendale Baptist Church and serve as the Coordinator of the church's Cuba Church Partnership and led my congregation's delegation to Cuba under the authority conferred by License No. CT-1068, issued to the Alliance of Baptists on November 20, 2003. The dates of our travel to Cuba were from Thursday May 27, 2004 through Thursday, June 3, 2004 (travel inclusive). My traveling companions were Rev. April Baker, co-pastor and spiritual director for the trip, Anna Bernard, age 15, Carson Brock, age 14, Louise Clifton, Thomas Conner, Paul Davis, age 16, Ben Elsberry, age 16, Deborah Lynn, Holly Miller, age 16, and Peter Sturdevant, age 15. This delegation was the first from our church which included youth members of the travel team.

2. The purpose of our travel to Cuba was entirely religious in nature. In particular, we went to Cuba for the purpose(s) of fulfilling Glendale Baptist Church's commitment to our partner church, La Iglesia Bautista Alberto J. Díaz in Santa Clara, Cuba. That commitment includes sharing our common faith and experience with the community of faith in that church in Cuba, through worship of God, Christian fellowship, study of the scriptures, prayer, observance of ordinances of the faith such as Baptism and Holy Communion, and visiting and sharing with members of that congregation including those not able to leave their homes.

3. Another purpose of the trip was to introduce members of our respective congregations to each other to promote the strengthening of the church partnership. During the trip, we sought greater awareness about the context in which Cuban Christians (and particularly Baptists) live and act out their faith. Finally, the travel team prepares a report to our congregation about the partner church, its development, individuals in the church, and activities in the life of the church to increase our congregation's awareness and understanding of our partner church.

4. While in Cuba, we specifically fulfilled the religious purposes of our trip by continuously being mindful of the significance of our travel through devotional times, prayer and frequent discussion, sharing the impact of what we witnessed and were experiencing. As has been the case for all six trips which Glendale Baptist Church has taken to Cuba, this aspect of the trip was under the direction of an ordained minister of the Gospel named as "spiritual director" of the particular trip.

5. Messages prepared prior to the trip by members of our congregation were shared daily with the travel team to remind us of the links to our community of faith back home as well as to bless our activities as we traveled. On the Sunday morning before we departed, our travelers were "commissioned by our congregation to go to Cuba "on their behalf." The spiritual director also prepared daily devotionals and led an evening session to facilitate sharing the spiritual experiences of



the members of the travel team with each other. On this particular trip, the sharing among the youth of their experiences and learning about the experiences of their fellow Christians in Cuba was particularly strong as they recognized the differences in their privileges and relative wealth as members of the culture of the United States as compared with their Cuban peers.

6. In addition to the ongoing process of awareness throughout the trip, we worshipped with our partner congregation on Pentecost Sunday, participating with them by providing special music, both instrumental and vocal. Our pastor, Rev. April Baker preached a sermon in our service one morning.

7. Also the travel team participated with the church members in their Bible study by reading scripture and using a technique of Biblical study called "socio-drama" which includes acting out the particular passage of scripture to stimulate discussion of applying its lessons to daily, contemporary life.

8. On two evenings during the visit to Santa Clara, the youth of the churches held joint sessions which included opportunities to get to know each other through Christian fellowship and participated in dialogue about their lives and faith in their respective cultures. These sessions were jointly planned and executed by the respective youth groups. In addition to these fellowship/dialogue evenings, the youth jointly participated in a day of sports activities which included playing kick-ball. The Cuban teens showed the Americans some football (soccer) moves and the Americans taught their counterparts hacky-sack. In addition, the Cuban youth led the US visitors on a hike through one of the nature preserve areas in Santa Clara. On another afternoon, the Cuban youth played host to the Americans by taking them on a tour of their city proudly showing off their community and some of its historical and cultural highlights.

9. On the travel day from Havana to Santa Clara, the group visited the First Baptist Church in Matanzas. This church is also a congregation in the Fraternity of Baptist Churches of Cuba, along with our partner congregation. The purpose of this visit was to see the program of activities of a larger and more established congregation in Cuba and to learn more about the association of churches in which our partner church participates. After visiting the church in Matanzas, we went to the Protestant Evangelical Seminary in Matanzas and met with the U.S.-educated director of the Baptist Studies Program, Dr. Francisco Rodes Gonzales. He explained to the group some of the practices of Cuban Baptists and how they differ from those in the US. Our travelers took advantage of an opportunity to meditate and to pray utilizing the seminary's chapel or labyrinth.

10. Another highlight of the trip was the opportunity to join our partner church on a day's outing to the nearest beach to Santa Clara for a baptism service. Our partner church rented a bus to transport church members to the coast for a day of fellowship and worship to celebrate the baptism of six new members of the congregation.

Because our partner church is small and meets in a house, it does not have facilities for performing the ordinance of baptism, so this baptism (for a relatively large number of new members) was conducted in the ocean. The members of our partner congregation along with our travelers joined hands and formed a large circle in the sea surrounding the baptism. The pastor of our congregation conducted the baptisms because the pastor of our partner church was (at that time) in the ordination process and not yet ordained and, therefore, by Cuban Baptist church rules, could not baptize the new Christians.

11. After supper on the evening of the baptism service, after the bus carrying the members of our partner church had returned to Santa Clara, we gathered as a travel team to discuss how we would communicate our experiences with our congregation back home. We began planning a worship service to attempt to explain our experiences, recognizing the difficulty of the task.

12. While in Cuba, the only "sightseeing" we did was to aid in meeting the religious objectives of the trip and it was all done with members of the religious group with which our partner congregation is a member church. No fees were paid for the small amount of informal sightseeing we enjoyed.

13 In Havana, we were accompanied by a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church and a translator with the Martin Luther King Center in Havana, who interpreted what we were seeing in the context of understanding the Cuban situation in general and its effect on Baptists in Cuba in particular. The trip focused particularly on the founder of Baptist work in Cuba, Alberto J. Diaz, for whom our partner church is named. As the earliest Baptist in Cuba, he was imprisoned at El Morro Castle by the Spanish colonialists during the Spanish American War (Cuban War of Independence) for his outspoken views regarding freedom of religion. We also saw the sight of his first church and visited his grave site in the Protestant cemetery of Havana. One evening we attended the ceremonial closing of the harbor, El Cañonazo, along with members of FIBAC (the Fraternity of Baptist Churches of Cuba) to help the youth realize the similarities of the history of Cuba and the history of the colonies which comprised the United States in the colonial era. From that experience we were able to become more aware of how our histories have intersected and how they shape our current relationships with each other.

14. In Santa Clara, a sightseeing afternoon was as guests of our hosts in showing us the city in which they live and act out their lives of faith. In the process of this time together, we stopped by the provincial headquarters of the Cuban government's Office of Religious and Cultural Affairs in Santa Clara and learned of the relationship with that office and how that affects our partner church.

15. On the final morning in Havana while awaiting our flight back to the US, while I met with the Executive Secretary of the Fraternity of Baptist Churches of Cuba, the other travelers walked around old Havana accompanied by two members of a Havana Baptist congregation, ending with a stroll through the artisan crafts market

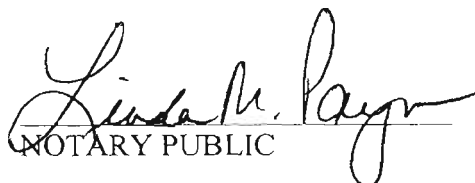
Because new travel restrictions had been issued on what travelers on a religious license could take into the United States from Cuba, our travelers were advised that they could not purchase souvenirs or mementos. I individually reviewed with each traveler the US Customs form they completed to ascertain that they had correctly completed it and were carried nothing that was prohibited. All items which were carried back into the US were declared on US Customs forms when we returned to the US and included only allowable educational materials.

16. In compliance with US regulations, I spent less than \$100 while in Cuba, other than the cost of food and lodging. No traveler in our group exceeded that amount of spending. Before we left the US, and additionally on more than one occasion, both our pastor and I reviewed with our travel group the U.S. regulations governing our travel.

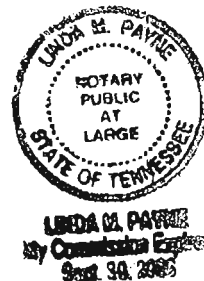
17. I was not made aware that any of my activities or the activities of our travel group violated any U.S. law in any way. No one in my group did anything contrary to the interests of the United States while we were in Cuba.

  
DAVID GOOCH

Sworn and subscribed to before me on this 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2006.

  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires 9/30/2006



## **AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN MILLER FINLEY**

John Miller Finley, being duly sworn upon his oath, states as follows:

1. I am a member of First Baptist Church, Savannah, Georgia, and in my capacity as Senior Minister I led my congregation's delegation to Cuba under the authority conferred by License No. CT-1068, issued to the Alliance of Baptists on November 20, 2003. My traveling companions were: Francis George Arnsdorff, Eulie James Burnsed, Matthew Miller Finley, Margaret Ogden Hardy, Barry Wayne Kerr, Julius Curtis Lewis III, Milton Lee Newton, Robert Stephen Stramm, and Andrew N. Thompson, Jr.
2. Our trip to Cuba covered the period January 6-13, 2004.
3. The sole purpose of our travel to Cuba was religious in nature. In particular, we went to Cuba for the purpose of meeting with ministers and congregations affiliated with the Fraternity of Baptist Churches of Cuba, Fraternity leadership, as well as the pastors and members of our sister congregation, the Genesaret Baptist Church, in Sancti Spiritus, and its ten mission congregations; to explore a possible partnership with the Fraternity's children's camp in Santa Clara; and to share with our Cuban brothers and sisters in worship and prayer services, programs of Christian education and pastoral care, and mutual efforts in witnessing and evangelism.
4. While in Cuba, we fulfilled the religious purpose of our trip by: visiting William Carey Baptist Church in Vedado, City of Havana, and its pastor, Rev. Estela Hernandez; El Jordan Baptist Church in Guanabacoa, City of Havana, and its pastor, Rev. Adalberto Cuellar; Rev. Manuel Delgado, Executive Director of the Fraternity of Baptist Churches of Cuba and Pastor of the Emanuel Christian Community Baptist Church, San Jose de las Lajas, and members of his family; the Fraternity headquarters building in Havana; Rev. Miguel Entenza, Rev. Jonathan Entenza, and the members of the Genesaret Baptist Church, Sancti Spiritus; sharing in worship services and programs for children and youth at the Genesaret church as well as at mission congregations in Trinidad, Palmarito, FNTA, and Buenavista; visiting the Fraternity's Bethany Children's Camp at Santa Clara; as well as "prayer-walking" and passing out Christian literature in Spanish and Portuguese to street people we encountered during informal walking tours of Old Havana.

5. While in Cuba, we did engage in a very modest amount of sightseeing and tourist activity which, to the best of my recollection, only included informal walking tours in the immediate area near the Plaza Hotel in Old Havana. Sites visited included the Parque Central, Capitolio, The Prado, Granma Memorial, Museo de la Revolucion, the Malecon, Castillo de la Real Fuerza, Plaza de Armas, and Plaza de la Catedral. To the best of my knowledge, no member of our group paid a fee to any tour guide, or entrance fee to the Cuban government, or had fees paid for him/her by any other person, nor did any member of our group enter any of the above-named buildings, museums, or historic sites, with the possible exception of the Cathedral. Strictly speaking, our group engaged in informal “walking” tours, accompanied by our Cuban hosts. At the end of one of these tours, a few members of our group did have lunch at the Hotel Ambos Mundos, where Ernest Hemingway once lived, but this was the only Hemingway site visited in the entire country and primarily for the purpose of sharing together a meal.

The itinerary previously submitted to the Office of Foreign Assets Control was merely a *suggested* itinerary and referenced non-religious sites for possible visitation, during or after conferences with Havana religious leaders and other mission work, as time might permit. It was innocently prepared in good faith, without any interpretation of the “full-time” program of religious activity requirement, but in keeping with the spirit and purpose of our mission trip to Cuba and of the license requirements as our church understood them at the time.

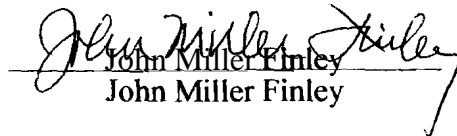
Over the past ten years, mission groups from our church have found it a virtual necessity to have one and preferably two days open after arrival in Havana because of inevitable problems resulting from one or more of the following: long travel delays from the United States to Cuba, typically ending with a late night arrival; frequent flight delays; problems with lost luggage; finalizing and paying for Cuban religious and/or other entry visas, with the Cuban government and/or Fraternity representatives; delays in Cuban customs on arrival to inspect luggage; obtaining prepaid travel vouchers from travel agents on arrival in Havana, and frequently making needed changes and corrections, and sometimes involving telephone calls to other travel agents in New Orleans, Mexico, Jamaica, or Havana; return trips to the Havana airport required within one or two days to deal with the foregoing items; confirming and/or arranging for surface travel from Havana to and from Sancti Spiritus; confirming and/or arranging for hotel reservations in

Sancti Spiritus and the final night's stay in Havana on return from Sancti Spiritus (the term "confirmed reservation" apparently does not mean the same in Cuba as it does in the United States); confirming and finalizing other arrangements with pastors at Genesaret Baptist Church in Sancti Spiritus (by telephone from Havana) concerning arrival times, meal planning, attendance and participation at Sunday worship services, planned visits to mission congregations in and around Sancti Spiritus, and other matters, since telephone contact with them is often difficult or impossible from the United States. Handling such arrangements in Havana was further complicated and delayed by communication difficulties, since there were only two in our group who spoke very limited Spanish, and most of the Cubans we dealt with spoke little or no English.

In point of fact, upon our late arrival at the Havana airport, after midnight of the evening of January 6, 2004, we discovered that Air Jamaica Airlines had lost approximately twenty pieces of our group's luggage. With the assistance of several others in our group, I spent a large portion of the following two days in conversation by telephone with Air Jamaica representatives and airport baggage personnel at Jose Marti International Airport, as well as with staff of the Plaza Hotel, and representatives of several travel agencies. The lost luggage was finally located in Montego Bay, Jamaica, with approximately one-half of it being returned at the end of the following day and all but one piece returned by our final day in Havana. However, Milton Newton was required to make a return trip to the airport in Havana in order to sign for and to retrieve his final piece of luggage just hours before our announced departure time for Sancti Spiritus on Saturday, January 9, 2004. As a result of these complicating factors, several members of the group were greatly limited in terms of what they could do outside of the Plaza Hotel.

6. Apart from the cost of travel to and from Cuba and expenses related to lodging and meals while in Cuba, I spent less than \$100 while in Cuba. I believe that those traveling with me limited their miscellaneous spending to roughly the same amount with the probable exception of certain purchases of works of art, books, recordings, and other similar educational materials as permitted in the regulations.

I was never made aware that any of my incidental and relatively minor sightseeing and tourist activities might violate the law in any way, and I do not believe that anyone in my group or that I personally did anything contrary to the interests of the United States while we were in Cuba. As a part of our fellowship with other Christians while in Havana, we visited with Fraternity leaders and other Cubans who insisted on accompanying us on the informal walking tours in the vicinity of our hotel in Old Havana, which included stops at historic churches, cathedrals, and other sites of historical interest, at which foreign tourists were present. These Cuban friends are very proud of their city, country, and culture, and to have declined their graciousness would have been unthinkable and certainly un-Christian.

  
John Miller Finley  
John Miller Finley

Sworn and subscribed to before me on this 24th of August 2006.

  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires Sept 18, 2007

## **AFFIDAVIT OF Louise W. Stanford**

Louise W. Stanford, being duly sworn upon her (her) oath, states as follows:

1. I am a member of First Baptist Church, Greenville, SC, and led my congregation's delegation to Cuba under the authority conferred by License No. CT-1068, issued to the Alliance of Baptists on November 20, 2003. My traveling companions were: Ralph Bouton; Stan Hastey (from the Alliance of Baptists); Jerry Kerns; Cathy McCall; Marilyn Nelson; and Kathy Sharp.
2. Our trip to Cuba covered the period Dec. 27, 2003, to Jan.3, 2004.
3. The purpose of our travel to Cuba was religious in nature. In particular, we went to Cuba for the purpose of engaging in collaborative missions experiences and theological and spiritual reflection in partnership with the Fraternity of Baptists in Cuba, other Cuban Christians, and the Alliance of Baptists in the United States. This type of mission trip was a different model for our church because its focus was not on what we could take to the Cuban people but on how we could discover and explore the ways in which we could work in partnership with Cuban Christians as they live out their faith in ministry. We wanted them to teach us and to help us look at their faith through the lens of their culture in order to show us how they perceive God to be working in Cuba. We planned to talk less and listen more. We wanted to find ways to allow each other's theology to strengthen our own. This new model has less emphasis on programs and more emphasis on worship and spiritual growth. It is an action/reflection model that expands the concept of the traditional mission trip.

The purpose of our trip consisted of four components (information sheet enclosed). An integral component of the trip was the Reflection Component, which included time for journaling and participation in daily sharing and reflection. We were very disciplined about group meetings and reserved time every day to process what we were experiencing. We reexamined the questions from our April 21, 2003 meeting (copy enclosed) and asked each other to describe any changes we observed in the team and in ourselves. We made connections between concepts and ideas from our reading list to what we were observing on site in Cuba. We had team devotionals and lengthy discussions every day, without which the personal and group transformation we sought would not have begun to evolve, nor would we have been able to explore ways to lead our congregation into new ways of thinking about missions.

The Touring Component of our purpose, also described on the information sheet, included experiencing as much of Cuba and its culture as possible, not by going to tourist destinations, but through outings with church leaders to places they deem significant in their own lives. In addition, while in both Havana and in Matanzas we invited delegations from local Alliance-affiliated churches to meet with us so



that we could hear their perspectives on their history, culture, language, and politics. We observed how extensively their culture is interwoven with their religious beliefs. Through this type of face-to-face engagement, we saw how Cuban Christians do ministry within their culture, and we explored ways in which we and they might work together.

The Ministry Component of our trip included, among other activities, a visit to one of the organic gardens sponsored by the First Baptist Matanzas. After much prayer and reflection, we decided to adopt the purchase of seeds for this garden as our team project. After we returned to Greenville we researched the availability of seeds that would be suitable for the soil in that area and requested that our church take up a special collection for these seeds. We chose Children's Sabbath in November as the day for the collection and used the seed theme for Sunday School lessons and for the Children's Sermon that day. Even though it was nearly a year after our return from Cuba, we were, and still are, sharing our experiences from that trip. We continue to maintain the seed fund so that we can send more seeds when needed, such as after the last hurricanes.

Through the meetings and discussions held during the Seminar/Retreat Component of the purpose of our trip we decided to request that our church be partnered with a Cuban church through the auspices of the Alliance and the Fraternity. Upon our return to Greenville we made the formal request for this association to our church's Affiliations committee, and, after a short time, the partnership with a church in Guanajay was established. It is our fervent hope and prayer that in the near future more teams from our church will be able to visit and do missions with our brothers and sisters in Christ at that church.

Much of the rest of the time in this component was spent in journaling, since we prepared to write and produce the Lenten booklet for our church's Easter observances soon after our return to Greenville. A copy of our booklet is enclosed with this letter. Please note from the booklet that on New Year's Eve, instead of going to a bar or a restaurant to celebrate, we had dinner at the Presbyterian Guest House where we stayed at Varadero, with the staff of the guest house, all of us at table together. We then washed dishes and cleaned up together and went to Watch Night Services at the First Baptist Church in Matanzas to welcome in the New Year. All team members have stated that this was one of the most meaningful ways they have ever spent New Year's Eve, and we have all shared many times the worshipful nature of this event.

4. While in Cuba, we fulfilled the religious purpose of our trip by arranging meetings and discussions with Fraternity leaders both in Havana and in Matanzas, attending worship services, including New Year's Eve, at local churches, and engaging in actual on-site missional activities such as the organic garden project, the visit to the ecumenical theological seminary in Matanzas, and to the "Farm" retreat and conference center associated with the Jordan Baptist Church in Havana. In addition, we spent much time in group and individual reflection, in

team devotionals and discussions, and in writing for the purpose of sharing our experiences with our congregation upon our return to Greenville. A copy of the basic script and pictures we used in most of presentations to our congregation is included with the materials accompanying this affidavit.

5. Since we did not go to Cuba as tourists, any sightseeing we did was that which occurred naturally as we walked from the hotels to lunch or dinner, to the churches or conference centers or as we drove **from** one part of the city to another or from Havana to **Matanzas** and back. If the Fraternity or church leaders wanted to show us something that is particularly **meaningful** to them, we went with them and learned more about how their culture and history interact with and impact their faith. We felt that our pre-trip seminar on Cuban history and culture had helped prepare us to connect cultural influences to religious beliefs. The remainder of our time, after our numerous missions activities, was spent on the reflection part of the **trip** model, in dialogue with church leaders, in journaling, and in group reflection and discussions about how the Cubans we met were ministering in their communities and how we could work with them in joint ministry. We were constantly aware of the need to compare and contrast the new mission trip model with the traditional model, and we spent many evenings developing commentaries on this topic. Part of our transformative experiences came from these discussions as we struggled with and worked through the question of what we expected to learn from and do with the new model and how we could assist the members of our congregation in their own transformative journeys.
6. Apart from the cost of travel to and from Cuba and expenses related to lodging and meals while in Cuba, I spent less than \$100 while in Cuba. I believe that those traveling with me limited their miscellaneous spending to roughly the same amount. We understood that certain purchases as outlined in the regulations are permitted, including books, recordings, and other similar educational materials, and I believe that we complied with those regulations.

We bought some of the above-mentioned items. We also visited a tapestry workshop for physically and mentally challenged women, which is a mission project of First Baptist Matanzas. There we purchased some handmade bookmarks, drawings, key rings, small soap covers, and handkerchiefs. The items were inexpensive and some had obvious flaws, but we wanted to support these women and this project. We also bought a stole there as a gift for our church's Minister of Christian Education who had helped plan our trip. She has used the stole on several occasions in connection with missions emphases, such as in children's sermons and retreats. She also wears it periodically when she leads in worship. It serves as a visual reminder of our shared commitment to help our fellow human beings wherever they may be.

7. Many of our activities in Cuba were planned, and some opportunities arose **after** we arrived. Because of our intense preparations prior to the trip, we confidently

and excitedly embraced each opportunity. Prior to our departure, we spent much time in study, reading, and preparation (Discussion Schedule enclosed). We made a covenant together and reviewed it at each session. We developed our own reading list and read extensively about both theology and Cuban culture, and each team member led a book discussion during our sessions. We took the Meyers-Briggs personality inventory so that we would have some idea of what to expect within the group. We started each session with a Spanish lesson. We had a seminar on journaling so that we would know more about how to write reflectively. Because of our seminars on theological and spiritual preparation we began to think deeply about what it means to undertake a transformative journey. If tourism had been our goal we would never have spent so much time and effort in these types of preparatory activities.

8. I was never made aware that any of my incidental and relatively minor sightseeing and tourist activities violated the law in any way, and I do not believe that anyone in my group or that I personally did anything contrary to the interests of the United States while we were in Cuba.

The mission team from First Baptist Church, Greenville, SC that went to Cuba at the end of December, 2003 is very concerned about the recent allegations that the trip was different from what we represented it to be. We feel that our integrity, as well as that of our church and the Alliance of Baptists, has been impugned, and we are very concerned. We are surprised and disappointed that no one contacted any of us to seek additional information about the trip. Conclusions have been drawn about us without any input from us. In effect, we have been asked to prove our innocence. The proposed itinerary that we filed was basically a guide for our stay in Cuba, and we were privileged to discover several additional missional opportunities after we arrived there. We would like to have the opportunity to fully explain our activities on the mission trip.

A thorough examination of our activities during our six days in Cuba will show that there was no time for sightseeing, nor was there any desire on our part to do so. We stayed at the Presbyterian Guest House in Varadero because we did not have a host church, the rooms were inexpensive, and any profits the Guest House made were donated to their ministry for handicapped children. We enjoyed having our devotionals and team meetings on the beach, but if going to the beach had been our goal we would have stayed in South Carolina where we have far more beautiful beaches and where English is spoken. We had no need to pay to fly to a third-world country just to go to a beach with six people we did not know very well prior to the trip.

Prior to our departure, as part of our intense preparation for this trip, we invited a university professor who has participated in several mission trips to Cuba to speak to us about Cuba's history, culture, language, and politics. So when we arrived in Cuba and began to see and experience the culture, particularly in the daily lives of our friends, we were able to make connections between the cultural and historical

information we had received and the real-time situations we **observed**. We believe that we did all we could to prepare ourselves to honor the stated purpose of our trip. Everything we did in Cuba related directly to the purpose of the trip as described in the response to paragraph three of this affidavit and in the materials accompanying it.

9. An additional point about our trip is that several members of the Cuba team had to arrange time off from work and away **from** family to make this trip. Since the trip occurred at a time of year when many families gather together, it was a difficult choice to leave home for a mission trip anywhere. Six of our team members are married, but no spouses went along. It was a true and authentic commitment on the part of each team member to engage in the transformative journey as described above and in the enclosed materials.
10. The enclosures to this **affidavit** include copies of Covenant; Information Sheet; Questions for April 21, 2003 Discussion; Cuba 2003 Discussion Schedule; Lenten Booklet; Basic script with pictures of post-trip presentations; and Publicity (2).

Louise Williams Stanford

Louise Williams Stanford  
(Full Name)

Sworn and subscribed to before me on this 21 of August 2006.

[Signature]  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires 01-31-15

Cuba 2003: A **Transformative** Missional Journey  
Covenant

We make this covenant with God and with each other.

We will participate **fully** in the preparation, on-site activities, and post-trip experiences which will include (see below for dates):

- an opening retreat
- readings for discussion
- scheduled discussion meetings prior to leaving and while on-site
- church report upon return
- debriefing/evaluation session(s) upon return**

In recognizing the value of collaboration with our partners in Cuba, we will aspire to a spirit of good will, cooperation, cultural and theological understanding, and commonality.

To facilitate an atmosphere of learning and growth, we will actively listen to one another, treat each person's views and opinions **as** importantly as our own, and respect another's right to **his/her** opinions whether or not we agree.

To allow for one another's struggles, questions, doubts, and opinions we will respect a high degree of confidentiality.

We will be respectful of individuals within the group by allowing all who choose to participate adequate time to do so. We will **refrain from** monopolizing conversation in the group meetings.

We will make our agreed financial commitments in a timely manner.

Should any of us be unable to fulfill our commitments for this trip, we will notify either Michelle **McClendon** or Mary M. **Wrye** **as** soon as possible and make arrangements regarding finances:

We will review this covenant for additions at our first meeting and at subsequent meetings as necessary.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

(over)

## **CUBA 2003: A TRANSFORMATIVE MISSIONAL JOURNEY INFORMATION SHEET**

Alan Neely suggested in a recent sermon at FBCG that the goal of missions in our time is more the conversion of **"us"** than the conversion of **"them."** Doing missions should change **"us"** inside. **Partnering** with Christians on mission in their own **country**, talking with them about who God is and how they live out their faith in their culture, sharing our own experiences **from** our perspective, experiencing that which is new and reflecting on the experiences we have—all this and more **form** the basis for a new **missional** approach with our own transformation as a part of the goal. This journey to Cuba for the purpose of missions and theological dialogue and reflection fits into this **"new"** way of thinking about missions in the new **millennium**.

### **Purpose of the Trip:**

To engage in collaborative **missions** experiences and theological and spiritual reflection in partnership with Cuban Christians and the Alliance of Baptists.

### **Trip Components:**

- **Seminar/Retreat** Component: participate in a **retreat/seminar** with Cuban Christians
- **Touring** Component: see and experience as much of Cuba and its culture as possible
- **Ministry** Component: participate in a hands-on mission project with **Cuban** Baptists
- **Reflection** Component: **keep** a journal of experiences and impressions and participate in daily times of sharing and reflection

### **Preparation Process and Components:**

Application Deadline: April 1

Interviews: April 21 beginning at **3:30**, ending at **8:30**

Notification of Acceptance: by Wednesday, April 23

Hear **Paco Rhodes** speak: April 30, **6:40 – 7:30** in the Parlor

Orientation and Preparation:

Personal Component: **Myers/Briggs** Inventory, etc.

Cuba Cultural Component: History/Culture/Language/Politics

Theological Component: Bible Study, Missions Discussion, Reading and Reflection before, during and after the trip

Mission preparation and practical travel preparation

Reading and Retreat in early fall

Debriefing, Evaluation and Report Sessions **after** the trip

### **Trip Details:**

- **Dates:** Leaving December 27, 2003 and returning January 3 or 4, 2004.
- **Cost:** \$1800 per participant; financial assistance is available; payments can be made in monthly installments if necessary prior to the trip; part or all of this expense may be tax deductible, more **details** to follow. (Note: This is an estimated cost based on current travel information. The trip will not exceed this amount but the actual cost could be less, depending on airline costs and lodging variables.)
- **Deposit Information:** \$200 deposit due 14 days after the team participants are announced; \$100 of the deposit is non-refundable and participant agrees to reimburse the church for any **funds** the church incurs in the event that a participant has to cancel.
- **Final Payment due:** October 15, 2003

## QUESTIONS FOR APRIL 21, 2003 DISCUSSION

1. What caused you to apply?
2. What are your personal hopes and dreams for this trip?
3. What are your fears about this trip?
4. This trip is designed as a different kind of experience than any other we have done. It will offer you opportunities to reflect on how God may have called or may be calling you to serve in the world. How do you feel about that?
5. How do you relate to people whose faith commitments are very different from yours, especially people who call themselves Christian?
6. What is it about going to Cuba (as opposed to any other country) that appeals to you?
7. What do you hope to encounter?
8. What do you hope not to encounter?
9. Who do you hope to encounter?
10. Who do you hope not to encounter?
11. What is your understanding of the term "theological reflection"?
12. How do you feel about journaling?
13. What would cause you to pull out of this trip?

## CUBA 2003 DISCUSSION SCHEDULE

### PERSONAL PREPARATION:

Friday, August 22, 2003, **Louise Stanford's house**

Gather at 6:20 p.m. **We will eat promptly at 6:30 p.m.**

6:30 Potluck dinner

7:15 ***What Can the Myers-Briggs Teach Me?*** led by Donna Forrester

\*\*\*Please complete the enclosed Myers-Briggs Inventory, per attached instruction sheet, and return it to Donna by **Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>**

Saturday, August 23, 2003, **Clemons Conference Room**

Gather at 8:45 a.m. to **begin promptly at 9:00 a.m.**

9:00 ***The Significance of Spiritual Preparation***

led by Hardy Clemons

10:00 Break

10:15 ***How to Journal*** led by Gayle Price

11:20 Reading discussion led by Sula Hurley

Reading: Let Your Life Speak, Parker Palmer, 2000

### THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

Sunday, September 28, 2003, **Clemons Conference Room**

12:00 Lunch at the church & a Spanish lesson

1:00 ***Thinking Theologically*** led by Jeff Rogers

2:30 Break

2:45 Reading discussion led by Cathy McCall

Reading: Your God is Too Small, J. B. Phillips, 1997

### CUBA INFORMATION:

Sunday, October 19, 2003, **Clemons Conference Room**

12:00 Lunch at the church & a Spanish lesson

12:45 ***Brief History of Cuba*** led by Marilyn Nelson

1:00 ***Culture & Political structure*** led by David Bost

2:15 Break

2:30 Reading discussions led by Ralph Bouton & Kathy Sharp

Reading: The Reader's Companion to Cuba, Alan Ryan, 1997

Discussion led by Ralph Bouton

Cuba Diaries, Isadora Tattlin, 2002

Discussion led by Kathy Sharp



# Outline for Cuba Discussions

## Intro



FBC Trip 6 people and Stan Hastey from the Alliance

- Cuba is predominantly Roman Catholic due to Spanish immigration
- Cuba has a small population of Santeria from the African influence
- During the past 10 years Fidel has begun to allow people to worship and has lifted the restrictions on the jobs that are open to young people that have been baptized. This has allowed young people to return to church and to the ministry.

### 4 Baptist groups in Cuba today

- Group affiliated with ABC in Eastern Cuba
- Group affiliated with SBC in Western Cuba
- Freewill Baptist Churches

### Fraternity of Baptists-12 +/- years old

- Kicked out of Group affiliated with SBC group
- Women in Ministry one of the big issues
- 32 churches primarily in Western Cuba
- FBC-Greenville has partnership with Fraternity
- Churches are mostly less than 100 members but are growing
- People and worship services are warm, welcoming, and enthusiastic

### Some Visits and Discussions during trip

- Discussion with Fraternity of Baptists President at William Carey Baptist Church
- Visits to Seminary at Matanzas
- Visits to FBC Matanzas
- Visit to Organic Garden at La Marina
- Discussion with Paco Rhodes on Spirituality in Cuba
- Visit and discussion with Young Pastors Group
- New Years Eve celebration in FBC Matanzas

## Priorities



### 1. Conference Center/Farm

For families spiritual Training  
Retreats, Pastoral, Youth  
Currently rebuilding existing buildings  
Landfill being abandoned and made into 'Green Space' by local govt.  
Appx. 8 Acres  
Sold at a fraction of the value by a Catholic man in memory of his mother for the purpose of a Christian retreat center



### 2. Jordan Baptist Church-Completion of their new building

Dormitory for conference center  
Also to be used in conjunction with Conferences at Farm



Housing for annual meeting of Fraternity of Baptists  
FBC history  
14-year history

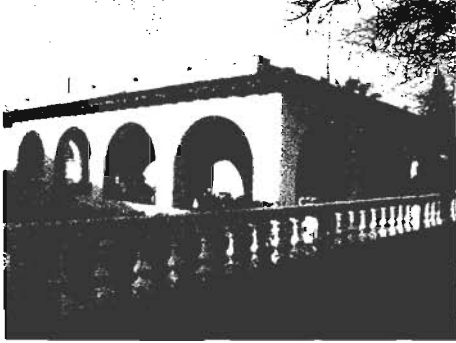
### 3. Partnership with FBC Greenville and church in Cuba (yet to be named)

Travel (bring Cuban pastor or church member to Greenville)

Strengthen tie between FBC and Cuban Baptists.

#### Projects

1. Presbyterian House (Centro Servicios Sociales y Educativos) in Veradero



2. Ministry for disabled children  
House mission groups to raise money for their ministry  
Many of the staff are volunteers

3. First Baptist Church Matanzas  
First church of the Fraternity



Sponsor a tapestry workshop for physically and mentally disadvantaged women  
Neighborhood organic gardens. Located in poor neighborhoods to improve nutrition of local residents



Pastor is in mid-twenties. Age discrepancy **between** established pastors and new pastors due to atheistic state during most of the last 40 years.



#### 4. Seminary

Presbyterian, Episcopal, Methodist

**Paco Rodes**, retired from FBC Matanzas, full-time professor now

Need for theological training for young pastors and lay people



Proposed Baptist House of Studies (Dorms, **kitchen**, guest **quarters**, library)  
Possible funding for a Baptist chair

#### 5. Other needs

Vehicle for Fraternity – (repair, replace or both) to transport **guests/mission** groups  
Fraternity **Office space/headquarters** (building already identified, need funding for renovation and purchase)



**Priorities for First Baptist Greenville**

1. Jordan Baptist Church building and dormitory
2. Fraternity Conference Center at farm
3. To collect money to purchase seeds to send this spring.
4. Partner Church for First Baptist Greenville



**Immediate project:**





We are a community of believers in God as revealed in Jesus Christ ds Lord. We believe in the authority of the Bible, the equality of all members, unity in diversity, and the prtesthood of all believers. In cornmunton with and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we follow the Way of Jesus the Christ and share the Good News through worship, education, ministries, and missions. As an autonomous Baptist Church, we value our heritage and the freedom it allows us to minister alongside other groups, both Christian and non-Christian. We express our love for all in gratitude for the love God has shown to us.

MISSION STATEMENT

# the News

December 30, 2003

## First Baptist - Greenville

8 4 7 C L E V E L A N D S T R E E T . G R E E N V I L L E , S C . 2 9 6 0 1 8 6 4 - 2 3 3 - 2 5 2 7

### Men's Morning Bible Study

The Men's Morning Bible Study will begin again on Wednesday, January 14, at 6:30 a.m. in the Staff Room. Our study will be the letter to the Ephesians. Study books are available from Sandra Davis in the Education office at a cost of \$6.00. Plan to join us.

The Second Annual  
Community-Wide Interfaith/  
Interracial Commemoration of

The life and legacy of  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Bi-Lo Center  
Sunday, January 11, 2004  
6:00 PM

Please Join Us in Celebrating...  
The Teachings of Dr. King  
And His Vision of the Beloved  
Community

Distinguished Keynote Speaker...  
THE HONORABLE RICHARD RILEY,  
Governor of South Carolina/US  
Secretary of Education

Musical Presentations by...  
GREENVILLE COUNTY HIGH  
SCHOOLS MASS CHOIR

...Let justice and mercy flow like a  
mighty stream...

### Please pray for the Cuba team as they travel to Cuba, December 27 - January 4

Team members: Ralph Bouton, Stan Hastey, Jerry Kerns, Cathy McCall, Marilyn Nelson, Kathy Sharp and Louise Stanford

They will be sharing their experiences in a variety of ways when they return.



### A thought from the Spiritual Formation Committee.....

"Our world is hungry for genuinely changed people. Leo Tolstoy observes, "Everybody thinks of changing humanity and nobody thinks of changing himself." Let us be among those who believe that the inner transformation of our lives is a goal worthy of our best effort." — from "Celebration of Discipline" by Richard J. Foster

Web site: [www.firstbaptistgreenvilte.com](http://www.firstbaptistgreenvilte.com)