

September 2008, *Equipping* # 89

Celebration Story

We invite you to share with your congregation the following story from Ray Dirks, Curator, Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery who was recently in Cuba to work on an upcoming exhibition of contemporary Cuban art, memories & parachutes. The story should take no more than 2 minutes to read aloud. You might also wish to include it in your church newsletter.

Cuba: A Light in Havana



Angelita Scott Quintana is an exceptional woman, a leader, a spark of light gracing her beautiful hometown of Havana, Cuba. A renovated home shows visible results of her witness to her alcoholic husband. Her willing service shows witness to her church and community.

Quintana is a member of Palatino Church. Palatino's pastor, Rodolfo Rodriguez, leads five Havana-based Iglesia Evangélica Misionera de Cuba churches—Evangelical Missionary Church of Cuba—a denomination that Mennonite Church Canada relates to.

Quintana gently, forcefully, without shame, speaks of her husband's alcoholism. Before he became a Christian five years ago, all of his money went towards his addiction.

Pastor Rodriguez, pulls out a photo of Quintana's husband while he was enslaved to alcohol—his eyes offering the gaunt, soulless gaze of a ghost. Quintana then points to a recent photograph—a bright-eyed, filled-out man smiling broadly.

Faith, followed by addiction control, led to a changed man. Currently, Quintana's husband works in construction in Grand Cayman. When he returns to Havana, he continues renovating their modest home.

Quintana's light extends beyond family influence. She coaxed other women in her neighbourhood to join her at Palatino, and they now form a vibrant core of women who lead Palatino worship.

Praise God for individuals like Angelita Scott Quintana, whose passion for Christ lights the way for transformation!