

## Cuba/Baptists on Mission Partnership Teams –2024

**Purpose:** The primary purpose of the partnership is to continue construction of the new seminary in Santa Clara, Cuba or maintenance/construction at the retirement home in Santiago. Teams will have an opportunity to visit with and get to know Cuban Baptists as well as worship in Cuban Baptist churches. Team members are encouraged to share their faith with people that they meet.

**TRIP COST:** The basic price of the trip is approx. **\$1,500 (for 2023 the cost per person was between \$1,250-\$1,600)**. This includes round-trip airfare to and from Santa Clara or Santiago, insurance (**supplemental health and cancellation**), orientation materials, T-shirt, lodging in Cuba, in-country transportation, meals on site and the cost of visas (**our office will handle the visa request to Cuba**). Take some extra money. (Price does not include what you choose to pay translator(s)). You are now allowed to bring a few things back to the USA but please consult the department of state Cuba section on this issue. Once airlines confirm schedules and times, we will determine the exact cost per person, usually around 85 days before trip. **We prefer that every team member send any trip costs to the church and then the church will send Baptists on Mission one check for the trip. If a credit card is used a 3% processing fee will be added. If a team leader or member needs to make other arrangements please contact Tom Beam or Dollie Noa to discuss.**

**MATERIALS COST:** Each team must provide the cost of materials for all projects. The cost for building materials for each team is **\$3,000**. NC Baptists on Mission will add \$2,000 to this amount. The Eastern Baptist Convention already has your materials money. At this time Cuba is taking American dollars.

**TEAMS:** Teams should be comprised of no more than **12** (Twelve) members and no less than **5** (five) members. **TEAM MEMBERS must be at least 16 years of age.** There is a translator on site but having a Spanish translator on each team will be very helpful. (Be prepared to pay the translator(s) that assist you. We suggest a minimum of \$150 per week.)

**PARTICIPATION:** Those wishing to participate should do the following:

1. Contact the NC Baptists on Mission Office for an updated list of Cuba projects and dates. Tom Beam, [tbeam@ncbaptist.org](mailto:tbeam@ncbaptist.org), 1.800.395.5102, ext. 5605.
2. Choose a project/week. Once you contact Baptists on Mission and have chosen your project/week, the team leader will need to complete an online profile (instructions sent by Baptists on Mission). Complete payment per person is due no later than **30 days** prior to the date of your departure. Once the team leader has completed their online profile, the team leader will receive information to send to the team members on completing their online profile. This will need to occur within 105 days prior to the trip. Once tickets are purchased, they are non-refundable and non-transferable.
3. Have a **valid passport. Please make sure your passport does not expire within six (6) months of your departure date. (ex.: if your passport expires April 1, 2024 and your departure date is on or after October 1, 2023 you will want to have your passport renewed).** If you do not have a valid passport you will need to get one immediately. It usually takes 3-4 weeks to process a new passport. **You must have a visa to enter Cuba and our office will handle this process. We need your online profile completed and a copy of ALL passports 105 days in advance in order to process the visa request with Cuba.**

**HEALTH:** Team members must be in good physical health. **Anyone with a chronic medical condition should not volunteer for these projects.** Many areas of work will be quite hot and dusty. Volunteers will need to make sure the following shots are up to date: **Typhoid, Hepatitis A, and Tetanus.** Tell whoever administers your shots that you will be traveling to Cuba. (They may suggest other shots. This is up to you.) Shots are not required but suggested.

**TRAVEL:** ALL travel will be arranged by the Baptists on Mission Office. All trips will be **8** days in duration, leaving on Friday and returning the next Friday. We may be able to have Saturday-Saturday trips if the trip does not conflict with another team being in Cuba. All volunteers must depart from Charlotte, Greensboro or Raleigh/Durham. (Travel *may* be possible from other cities, but *may* involve an additional cost). Tickets and orientation materials will be sent to the team leader. Once travel arrangements have been made and visas have been requested all costs for the trip will be due to NC Baptists on Mission, even when a team member needs to cancel. Because we purchase cancellation insurance for each team member, it is up to the team member to contact the insurance for any reimbursements. Teams who are traveling to Cuba for the first time will need to contact Tom Beam, [tbeam@ncbaptist.org](mailto:tbeam@ncbaptist.org) or 1.800.395.5102, ext. 5626 to schedule an orientation session.

**Visas** – A visa is required to travel to Cuba. It will be requested **100 days in advance. (This is a Cuban requirement and it's non-negotiable).** The visa request will be generated by the Baptists on Mission office. Once visas are requested and information submitted **no one** can be added to the trip. The visa information needed for each team member is a part of their online registration, sent to the team leader by Baptists on Mission after team leader has completed his/her online registration.

**LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS:** Those participating in this effort must be flexible and willing to work as a member of the team. Travel, living, and working conditions may be difficult at times. The work may be strenuous and the climate will be **HOT**.

**OTHER:** Smoking, chewing tobacco, and drinking alcoholic beverages is highly offensive to Cuban Christians. Team members **must** refrain from these activities while in Cuba.

### **Overview of trip due dates**

**105 days from trip departure** – Online registration for team leader and members is due to Baptists on Mission office. Copies of Passports are also due in our office at this time.

**30 days from trip departure** – All travel costs and team cost of \$3,000 due to Baptists on Mission office.

**State Dept. Security\*** Please register your travel plans with the US State Department. You can do this by going on the State Department Web Site and registering there. You need to do this before you leave the United States. This is for your own protection and security while overseas should the need arise. Register as an individual. The website is:

<https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/index.aspx>