

ANCIENT PATH MINISTRIES/LA SENDA ANTIGUA

2021 REFLECTIONS

**ANCIENT
PATH
MINISTRIES**



IGLESIA

VOLVIENDO

A LA SENDA

ANTIGUA

NEW EVERY DAY

I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." - Lamentations 3:19-24

LAMENTATION WILL TURN TO DANCING

It is difficult to recap 2021. This photo, a selfie at a family wedding in 2019 may be helpful, if a bit prophetic.

Then, it seemed an incomplete image of our family and leadership. Today, it reminds me of that passage above. Such is the life of a disciple. It can be overwhelming to bear, but mercy is new every day and ultimately, the Lord is our portion.



THANK YOU

Let's begin here with a deep and genuine thanks to any and all who read this. Thank you for praying with and for us. Thank you for staying with us on our knees and through your expressions of love and support in so many ways.



Every prayer reached God's ears and made eternal impact.

Every kind word and message was answered prayer and balm to our souls.

Every gift of time, physical resource, and money encouraged us and allowed the work of the people of the ancient path to move forward.

As you will soon see, despite a time of heavy and painful loss, we have not been consumed. God's mercy and faithfulness are always fresh and always mighty. It is always worth it to place your hope in the Lord. So, with God's great love at the forefront, we bring you our best attempt at a capture of 2021. But first, here's how you can...

GET ON THE PATH WITH US

Join us in the work of La Senda Antigua. Help see that the reach of the Gospel and connections in Christ increase and grow.

THE WORK WAS BIRTHED IN AND RUNS ON THE FUEL OF PRAYER



The most crucial thing you can do to play your part in every moment is PRAY for:



- The work of Ancient Path/La Senda Antigua each day of 2022 and beyond.
- Pastora Yami, Pastor Kevin & Tonni, and the amazing leadership, that we be faithful in and well equipped for the ministry ahead.
- Cuba in time of great financial, civil, and medical crisis, and the ever complex US-Cuba political relationship.
- Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field. He will show you what to do next.

BECOME A FINANCIAL COVENANT PARTNER

In 2018, we mapped out a financial foundation to support the bulk of our work through the next decade and beyond. To express is, we use 100/20/20. We need to secure 140 monthly partnerships (or equivalent). 100 at \$100, 20 at \$250, 20 at \$500. 140 committed people or churches can make this happen. Change the world.

The original vision was to meet our goal across 2019-2021. As seen below, COVID slowed our growth in 2020/21. As our world re-engages post-pandemic, THIS IS THE BEST WAY YOU CAN PHYSICALLY HELP THE MINISTRY.

3-yr Monthly Partner Goal

12/31/21 goal. \$21,600 mo.

12/31/20 goal \$15,000 (70%).

Actual 2019-2021 growth:

Dec 31, 2019 \$6,334 (29.3%)

Dec 31, 2020 \$6,750 (32.0%)

Jun 30, 2021. \$8,500 (39.4%)

Dec 31, 2021 \$8,600 (39.8%)

Please consider joining us or increasing your support so the work may have strong financial foundation for years to come. Monthly income makes for simplest bookkeeping, though current partners also make covenant commitments monthly/quarterly/yearly as best suits their planning.



HERE IS HOW TO BECOME A COVENANT FINANCIAL PARTNER

NOTE- Online giving to Ancient Path/La Senda Antigua is provided through our partners at Four Corners Community Church of West Chester, OH

ON OUR SECURE WEBSITE

<https://ancientpathministries.org/onlinegiving>
Follow prompts to Four Corners giving site
Select Ancient Path Ministries Fund. Recurring gift.

TEXT TO GIVE through Four Corners Church
Text **KEYWORDS** to 513-806-2724
Click link. Select Ancient Path Ministries Fund

BANK/IRA/DAF/PERSONAL OR BUSINESS CHECKS

Set recurring or 1-time gift through your bank bill pay to:
Ancient Path Ministries
10889 Lake Thames Dr, Cincinnati, OH, 45242



CONNECT US TO NEW FRIENDS- HERE ARE A COUPLE TOOLS

WATCH PARTY FOR OUR APM VIRTUAL KINGDOM BUILDERS FUNDRAISING EVENT

**ANCIENT
PATH
MINISTRIES**



A 25 minute visual tour of our history & work
Watch here. www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8cbJYT2qmY

HAVE PASTOR KEVIN JOBE COME TO YOU TO SHARE OUR STORY/MISSION/FUTURE VISION

Anywhere in the USA!!

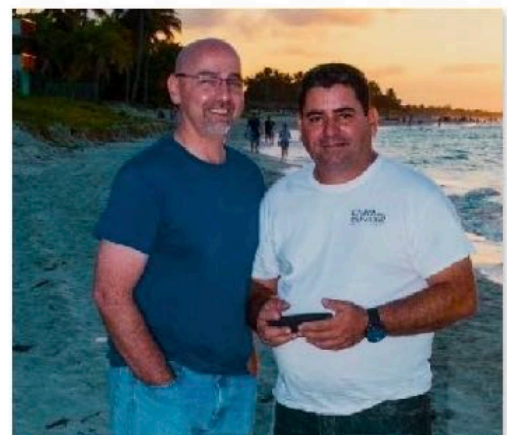
Any gathering/worship service. Name place/time.

Bring friends to hear an amazing story of God at work.

419-944-9238 or kevinanttoni@ancientpathministries.org

ADD FRIENDS TO OUR EMAIL CONNECTION LIST

Send their address to kevinanttoni@ancientpathministries.org



TRAVEL WITH US IN 2022

COME AND SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING

TEAMS FORMING NOW FOR MARCH, MAY, JULY, SEPTEMBER, NOVEMBER



FOR MORE INFO EMAIL/DM/TEXT TO PASTOR KEVIN JOBE 419-944-9238

kevinandtonni@ancientpathministries.org

AND NOW, ON TO THE RECAP

MEA CULPA. MEA MÁXIMA CULPA.

Very loosely stated, that is Latin terminology for, "It's totally my fault. Please forgive me." What I mean by that is I am so sorry that I missed our 3rd quarter update in October. Let me offer you this lame excuse; I just wasn't up to it. I was caught in a never-ending home improvement project and not dealing well with my grief over the loss of my little brother Joseito and Papá Cubano José (Dad) and being unable to be in Cuba with my family. In addition, I was at work on a ministry initiative in keeping with the newness of all things. I'll tell you all about it in detail a bit later. Anyway, a thousand pardons, please.

While on the subject of forgiveness, I beg your graciousness as this review has moments that may seem a bit personal. Finally, I ask you, as dear friend, and compadre in the Kingdom, hang with me for some extended prose before you get back to our typically bright and illustrated bulletin. OK. Let's go...

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” - Revelation 21:4-5

2021: A YEAR OF NEW

Trustworthy and true are the words of our Lord and Savior. As you know, we have had cause to cling tightly to this understanding. We have been entangled in a lot of new this year. Some of it has torn us up and, on the surface, doesn't seem all that good. But God's work, as He promises, is always for our good even when we can't understand how or why. Alongside the wrenching losses (and maybe even at times due to them), there is much Gospel to bring. In this year of new, God has continued to show His mighty hand and use us as we are willing to connect people to Christ and to build the Kingdom where we have the influence to do so.

As 2020 turned a disease-ridden corner into the “new and improved” year, we were busy planning for the 10th Birthday celebration of la Iglesia Volviendo A La Senda Antigua. I was crazy ready to go down, but José told me to wait. It will be best for the ministry he told me, and we would have time to be together again before long. Relax. This will pass.

CELEBRATION-INTERRUPTED

A few days before the planned celebration came the 1st big news of the year. COVID-19 was sweeping across Cuba and all church worship and large gatherings would be prohibited until further notice. Shelter in place orders were in force for months. Only those whose work (like pastors) demanded they be out where the risk of infection was highest were moving freely. José and Yami and our team continued to work hard, carrying food and necessities to those without means. The work of Kingdom building never stops. The Gospel is never more crucial than when the specter of death is imminent.

Through the winter, the work in the US continued through the efforts of our covenant prayer and financial partners, and I set myself to work keeping my Spanish up to par for the soon to come trip home to Jovellanos.

THE SPRING OF OUR DISCONTENT

My birthday, named for a saint, is 3 days or so before the end of winter. In 2021, for the first time, I was gifted with a surprise morning video call from my family in Cuba. The unexpected sight of my sister-in-law Yami, nephews, friends, and my little brother (and boss), Pastor José was a treasure of a birthday present. He came in from the garage with grease all over his hands, working hard as always. We joked and cajoled and played for close to 10 precious minutes, reminded one another of our shared love and pledged to see each other soon. And then, as is typical, the signal evaporated and their images froze on my screen.

That very afternoon, he noticed a slight fever. No medicines were available to fight it. The shipment I had ordered the first week of February would not arrive until June. Two days later, he messaged that he and Yami were both feeling rough and asked for prayer, being especially concerned that they not expose Papá José (Dad). Across the next week the daily messaging and petitions for prayer continued.

Nine days after that video message, my little brother was finally admitted to a hospital. I started sending him a daily journal so he would have something to look back on when he was released and on the road to recovery. In the meantime, Papá began experiencing symptoms. Before he could even be told how sick his son was, he too was hospitalized. Despite being quite sick herself, Yami spent a week keeping 24-7 vigil in the church van in the parking lot outside.

GOD SHOWS US SOMETHING NEW

Many friends went to work in prayer and something amazing and new began to emerge. From family, from colleagues, from friends across both countries, messages came to me: in my inbox, by apps, texts, on social media, phone calls, and face to face conversation. What arose was not simply consensus but rather a level of agreement in prayer which I had never experienced. Joseito would be healed, and his already remarkable and miraculous testimony would go on to magnify the work of the hand of God to a measure we can't yet fathom.

Across my years in ministry, to those I have served, I had become known for calling for prayer meetings and vigils. In this moment, though I got so caught up in asking people to pray, I didn't even think of it until a dear friend asked me. Suddenly reawakened to my own habits, I contacted everyone I could think of. Yami called the still scattered and largely quarantined church in Cuba to prayer and word spread.

On March 31st, literally thousands gathered on at least four continents to pray that God would show His power by way of a miraculous healing. It was astounding. In that movement, that week and on that day, the Lord was showing His power to unite His children and speak to our unified hearts in a powerful way. This was most certainly a good "new" for all of us to whom the Spirit spoke.

From that moment, I was relaxed and certain of what was coming. Until suddenly, I wasn't.

THE HARROWING OF HELL (?)

Some early Christian traditions assigned that name to day prior to Christ's resurrection. When my sobrino (José's son) called me with the news that Saturday morning, my certainty evaporated in the gasps that escaped my body as we prayed and cried together. Yet, I knew I needed to be a voice of calm and reassurance to the rest of those who had been robbed of breath and words. Between Saturday and Sunday morning, I managed a few thoughts-

It's Holy Saturday. It's the day in the story of our savior's time on earth where the tomb seems to reign. This makes it a particularly hard day for me to have to tell you that this morning, my incredible little brother, my boss, and the leader of our ministry has given up his earthly body and left us to be with Christ.

If arrangements hold true to Cuban tradition, by late this afternoon or this evening, his body will be entombed. It will be placed in the cemetery on Calle Real in Jovellanos in what Joseito always described to our visiting mission teams as, "the quietest neighborhood in town."

Never in my life has Holy Week been more real. Not a concept. Not a series of observances. Not a collection of extra worship experiences or dramas we wrote to try and bring something new to a story that doesn't need my input in the first place. Not a Good Friday where I have to muster uncertainty. Not a Saturday where I pray or review the scripture to imagine what the death felt like.

It's been none of the above. It's been real. It's been breathless. It's been filled with supernatural prayer agreement. It's been dealt a death blow that I'm not yet sure how to overcome. It's seen my baby brother, like his beloved Savior, entombed on Saturday.

THEN CAME THE MORNING

But, you know what? It's been over now for 8 hours or so. It's Sunday morning, Christ's tomb is open. His holy ones who have died rise now to testify. His saints left in this world lift our voices in praise Him.

20 minutes ago, I wasn't sure I could preach this morning. I'm going to ache, likely shed some tears, but I'll know. His heart beats. The bitter air surrounding death turns to breath again! Death is never the end. Christ is Risen! God is good! Let's go.

NEVER MORE CRUCIAL THAN NOW

As spring turned to summer 2021, the pandemic joined forces with scarcities of nearly all basic necessities, mind-blowing inflation, and an increasingly difficult and seemingly illogical currency reform. Together, these current issues pushed long-simmering tensions among the people of Cuba to the boiling point. On July 10 & 11, the island was swept by an organic protest uprising the likes of which had not been seen here since 1959. The demonstrations were met with swift and strong response. Freedom to air public grievance is not a right of the people in this kind of structure. The political and economic situation remains difficult as of this writing. But, God can and often does work through willing servants in times of trouble. In these moments that can be difficult and seem so dark, there is...

MUCH GOOD NEWS TO BRING

I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." - Lamentations 3:19-24

To get to more the good news of the "year of new" for us, let's go back where we started. The prophet Jeremiah has a whole book in which he writes lament. But, when you look at the inverse of the bitterness and gall and the downcast soul, the good news comes out clearly. God's love is great. It saves. It's loaded with compassion and mercy. God does and will continue to provide all these things. The greatest news is yet to come and it is worth hoping and waiting for.

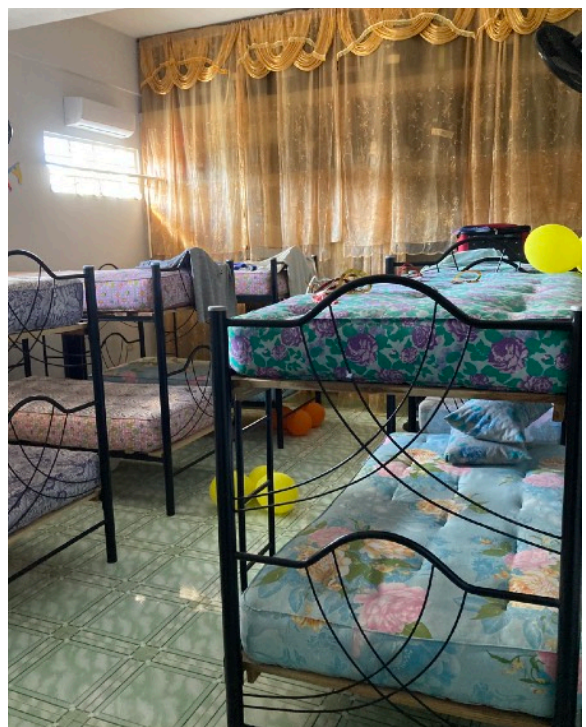
NEW = FINDING OUR WAY BACK HOME

On November 30, for the first time since March 2020, Kevin & Tonni finally put their feet back on Cuban soil and their arms around Yami and the boys and our La Senda family. Sometimes, pandemic protocol made those hugs figurative more than literal, but no one misunderstood. Here is a little of what we found.



NEW = DREAM PROJECTS MADE REAL

At Casa Santiago, the 1st phase of our Mission House is complete following 6 year construction process. The first level has a dormitory which will





accommodate up to 12 guests, two full baths, laundry and kitchen, warehouse storage, and a large garage/workshop facility. The garage includes a sunken mechanic's repair bay and ceiling mounted winch system which allow our team to perform all need repairs on ministry vehicles.

The winding stairs outside lead to the as yet unfinished second level. They represent Pastor José's final design work and were completed following his passing, in the Summer of 2021. To my eye, are a symbol of the possibilities of the next phase of God's work through the people of La Senda Antigua. Onward and upward.

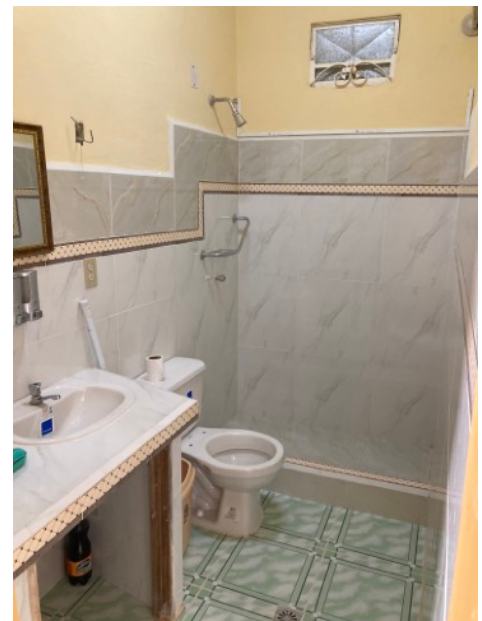


On site at our main church in Jovellanos, the first of three phases of construction is down to the final details. Restroom and office facilities are in place. Some interior doors, hinges, and knobs, and a new computer are all that remains before the new building is fully-functioning regional mission-outreach center.



NEW = DREAM PROJECTS MADE REAL

As reported in July, Pastora Yami is now Superintendent of the Buenas Nuevas Asociación for the provinces of Matanzas and Mayabeque. This position makes her one of only two women island-wide granted such authority (Cuban culture is typically quite male dominated.) Yami reported during our visit that not only are the men with whom she is now working accepting of her and treating her with respect, they also look to her for counsel and leadership.



NEW = ANCIENT PATH LEADERS

Ancient Path/La Senda Antigua is dedicated to development/support of strong leaders. These pastors, missionaries, and administrators with dozens of leaders and hundreds of servants in every area of ministry are capably carrying the work forward. New gifting is being unveiled. You will witness and be foundational supporters of even greater works of God ahead of us. It's going to be amazing! Prayer and support opportunities at ancientpathministries.org

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. -Ephesians 4:15-17



Luis & Maria Ester
Sandra & Reynol
Linda
Ana Ibis & Omar

Ricardo & Yacky
Diosmel & Yainesi
Jennifer & Kyle
Tony & Idania

Ivis & Leonardo
Lisuanly & Ange
Cheryl (Concha)
Altinay & Ariel

Orlinda & Osvaldo
Alain & Otanys
Laura & Brad
Eduardo & Ana Lidia

Idalis & Marlon
Minervis & Aurelio
Vicki
Yadel & Rosita

NEW = MINISTRY GROWING

When churches were order to stop worship services in January, the people of La Senda never stopped the work of the Kingdom. Sensing an overwhelming hunger around them, our team dug in deep and, as the world seemed to be shrinking back from the challenges of the times, they took the opportunity to bring Kingdom to the region in new ways. Here are just a few examples.



Serving The Sick

Our ministry transports were place in service as ambulances for the sick.



Children's Ministry

continued to flourish despite the pandemic and when the church re-opened in September there was hardly room to contain all who came.



Outreach Ministry

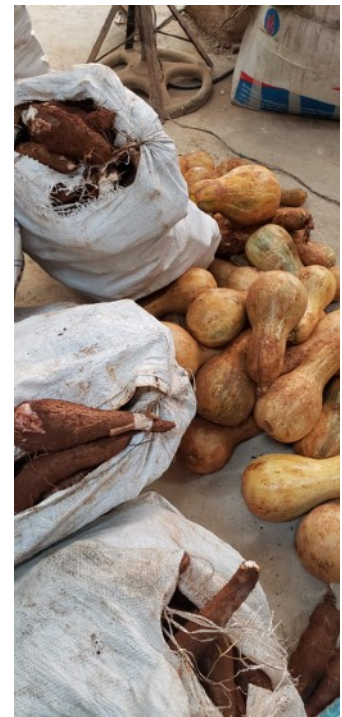
Is more critical now than ever before. We have continued many programs including serving senior citizens, aiding alcoholics and others struggling with addiction. 2021 saw the addition of two new works.

Ready To Serve is a twice weekly program to feed lunch to neighbors

in need and deliver food to those who cannot come to us. We currently serve between 40-50 people each day.

Free Behind Bars is a work that didn't seem possible 6 months ago. We are heading up an ecumenical ministry inside area prisons! This has never been allowed before. Yami reports not only prisoners coming to Christ, but prison guards have come to worship and receive salvation.

Worship in every location we serve has been on fire since we were allowed to come back together in September. Our Youth Pastors are working hard to keep up with a group which is running to serve the Kingdom and discover their gifts.





Morning children's classes and other small groups. A large garage is being constructed on the site to serve as a secure space for ministry transportation including our large truck.

Pastora Yami now has a car to use fulfilling her duties as superintendent across two whole provinces.

Mission site facilities are being upgraded in two locations to ready them to be legally recognized churches.

As of this writing, another property purchase is nearing a close. It will provide room for more classrooms and replace a costly construction project.

NEW = FACILITATING GROWTH

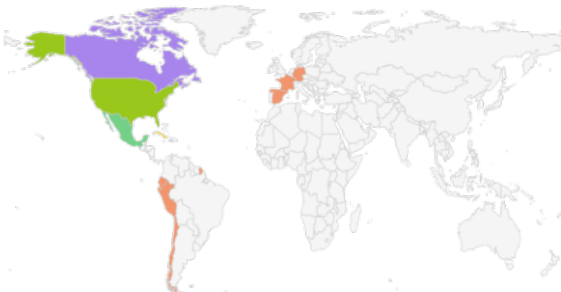
Changes and growth have stretched us and exceeded the limitations of our spaces. God has been faithful in all of it. We have added missionaries to our staff in 2021 and a whole troop of new leaders to care for that huge group of kids I mentioned.

We were able to complete purchase of a large house across the street from La Senda Antigua. It now serves as home to our Assistant Pastors and to a missionary family and our Sunday



In the summer we launched Season One of The Word From The Ancient Path, a weekly 20 minute podcast. The program has a two-fold purpose: to provide a platform to share sermons from our pastoral team and to tell the story of God's work in the people of the ancient path.

Each week, Pastor Kevin shares a sermon or witness in both and English and Spanish version. It's on all major streaming platforms and is a great way to connect over a cup of coffee or on your commute.



NEW = PODCAST. NUEVO = PÓDCAST



WORD FROM THE ANCIENT PATH.
PALABRA DE LA SENDA ANTIGUA.
STORIES FROM THE JOURNEY.
HISTORIAS DEL CAMINO.

ANCIENT
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PODCAST
NETWORK

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

- Jesus in Mark 16:15



NEW = THE SEASON AHEAD

After all the “new” and new through the year, the final worship service of 2021 at La Senda Antigua on Christmas night featured a drama highlighting the story of The Kingdom of God and the coming of Christ when all will be made new: no more tears, no more struggle, no more battle. God with His children and all of us with the victorious Christ for eternity.

By God's will and lifted by your love, prayers, and support, the people of the ancient path have continued to fight the good fight and we trust that the longing of Kingdom come on earth will soon be satisfied. Until then, it will be our unwavering focus to see as many as possible come to faith in Jesus. Please accept our humble thanks for being a part of the work. Qué Dios té bendiga siempre.

STAYING CONNECTED

ANCIENT PATH ON ALL PLATFORMS. INVITE YOUR FRIENDS ALONG.

WEBSITE

<https://ancientpathministries.org>

FACEBOOK

<facebook.com/ancientpathministries.org>

Yami Cruz. Kevin Jobe. Tonni Jobe.

INSTAGRAM

@ancientpathministries



YOUTUBE

Ancient Path La Senda Antigua

LINKEDIN

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kevin-jobe-1749a517b/>

UPDATES BY EMAIL

kevinandtonni@ancientpathministries.org

PASTOR KEVIN BY PHONE/TEXT

419-944-9238



