

APRIL 2022



**ANCIENT
PATH
MINISTRIES**

REFLECTIONS

2022 -1ST QUARTER

REBUILD.

RESTORE.

RENEW.

A PLANTING OF THE LORD



Dear Friends of Ancient Path/La Senda Antigua. Welcome to our 2022 1st Quarter Update. We left off our recap of 2021 at the year's the final worship service on Christmas night featuring a drama 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. That's how history as we know it will finally play out.

After a tumultuous 2020/21, shaken by losses we could not foresee, and yet seasoned with new works of God's hand, we entered 2022 with our minds firmly fixed on the victory we know is coming and on the crux of our mission to bring good news, connect people in Christ, and to build the Kingdom on earth to the full extent of the work of the Spirit in us. We are off to a running start.

TO DISPLAY HIS SPLENDOR

They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed. - Isaiah 61:4, 9

A GUIDING WORD

From the very start, the people of La Senda Antigua have been guided by the image of the Kingdom of God recorded in Isaiah 61 and acknowledged by Jesus in Luke 4.

Binding up the broken, healing and liberating, Beauty for ashes, oil of praise, garment of praise. Rebuilding, restoring, renewing. All of this so that God may be glorified. This has been our mission since day one.



The Lord has seen fit to bless the work of our hands and support it by the clear presence of the Spirit over the last decade plus. Many of our friends and partners in the USA there have reasonably asked, "Is everything OK now? What do you do to rebound from the losses of a year like 2021?" For us the answer is simply do as the Spirit spoke to Pastor Yami, "I made you to soar like an eagle. Get up! Fly!" 2022 is off to that kind of a start.

REBUILDING

Let's begin with the status of our beloved Pearl of the Antilles in the 1st Quarter of 2022. Put simply, it's a struggle. The daily economic realities and scarcities of basic staples continued out of 2021 and into the new year. Frustrations are high. During our 1st two visits of 2022, the most obvious topics of conversation after God's faithfulness and provision were about the difficulties inherent on daily life. The number of Cubans choosing to depart for the USA by whatever means are available is, after the 1st quarter, on pace to be more than 155,000 by the end of the year. Even so, our 1st small team of the year arrived to find a church in revival mode.



DREAMS AWAKING TO REALITY

In December 2021, Pastora Yami shared a dream with us that, some day we might be able to open a Christ-focused nursery school. She simply asked us to pray about the possibility down the line.

On the 12th of January, she took us for a tour of La Senda de Ternura (The Way of Tenderness) Nursery School. Though seemingly an out of the blue happening, the new ministry was already underway as a secular center, run by 3 generations of a La Senda Antigua family. Upon knowing about Yami's dream, they applied for permission to turn the facility into a ministry. La Senda De Ternura currently serves 20 children and our folks are looking to reorganize the house (which not incidentally is their home) to expand capacity.



The dream of a nursery school setting for ministry came from Yami's understanding that the church does not have lasting impact on the surrounding culture by operating exclusively from the outside and that ultimately if we can reach children, we can see the next generation of Cubans come into adulthood saved by Christ and operating in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is part of our ongoing efforts to extend the reach of the work to see more souls won to faith in Jesus.



GET ON THE PATH WITH US

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

PRAY FOR THE MINISTRY

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

- The work of Ancient Path/La Senda Antigua each day of 2022 and beyond.
- Pastora Yami, Pastor Kevin & Tonni, our leadership and servant ministry team, 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

A firm financial foundation is crucial. Just 150 committed people or churches can make this happen. CHANGE THE WORLD.

THIS IS THE BEST WAY YOU CAN PHYSICALLY HELP THE MINISTRY

Monthly Partner Goal

12/31/22 goal. \$21,600 mo.

12/31/21 goal \$15,000 (70%).

Actual 2020-2022 growth:

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

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

Mar 31, 2021 \$7,835 (36.3%)

**1ST Q 2022 HAS SEEN OUR 1ST DECREASE IN 5 YEARS
WE NEED YOU!!!**

Please join us or increase your support to continue the work for years to come.



HOW TO...

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



Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ have been gifted by the Spirit and answer the call to serve for the Kingdom of God. They do so with enthusiasm and great expertise.

A great example of the attitude with which our folks serve was evident in a recent conversation with Yanet, following an 8 hour day of cleaning and doing laundry for one of our visiting mission teams at the Mission House, I encountered her shortly thereafter at the main church, standing next to a bucket with a mop in her hands.



MAKING IT HAPPEN

Our founding Pastors, José & Yami, always emphasized that the work of the people of the Ancient Path/La Senda Antigua is not the work of one or a few, but of a great team of Kingdom servants.

On any given day, you can find a group hard at work caring for the spiritual and practical needs of ministry, church family, and our neighbors at one or more of 20 church and mission outpost sites.



She looked at me, smiled and shrugged and said with delight, "What a blessing it is to serve those who serve the Lord!"

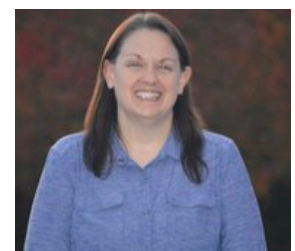
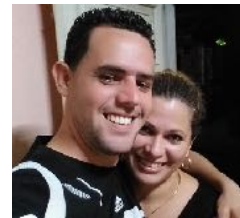
Top- Mechanic Team keeps our vehicles running well

Center- Medical Team sorting and preparing medicines for distribution to La Senda Antigua families.

Bottom- Clown Ministry provides humor and Bible lessons for children in church and the neighborhood.

ANCIENT PATH STAFF/BOARD MEMBERS

Our mission and our staff is growing! We are training up and sending out more workers into the harvest field each month. These missionaries, pastors, administrators, and board members enable a great deal of Kingdom work through our incredible team of servant ministers. Your prayers and financial support are vital to the mission.



Kevin, Tonni & Yami
Luis & Maria Ester
Sandra & Reynol
Linda
Ana Ibis & Omar

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

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

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

Dianny
Idalis & Marlon
Minervis & Aurelio
Vicki
Yadel & Rosita

RENEWING

FRIENDSHIPS: 2022 brings the renewing of Mission Team travel and partnership gatherings. This group of friends in Jamestown, NY sent off for our first 2022 team.

We started small. The January team of 4 close friends. In March, two physicians from Cincinnati's Bethesda Family Practice joined Pastor Kevin.

In May we will host a team of 11. Back in business.



GATHERINGS: Visiting teams were treated to overflow worship experiences. La Senda struggles to contain the people coming to seek Jesus. Yami estimates around 600 are now a regulars in worship/prayer gatherings and service ministries at the church in Jovellanos.

Outside Jovellanos, new missions are opening. 2 more during COVID. 4 on our agenda in the coming year.

EQUIPPING: This work needs help to happen. Partner giving has provide missionaries with electric scooters to reach missions as far as 75k from Jovellanos. Help from partners purchased a home for our Youth Pastors and two very young sons.

Partners in Canada are helping renovate a home for one of our rural missions and another purchase is in the works. The mission is growing. Thanks!



OUTREACH: Saving souls means going out. 2022 has seen an overflowing Children's Ministry (75+ in Sunday School), a Youth Ministry Yami's describes as "Fuego", full of the Spirit and drawing teens and young adults into service and leadership.

The US/La Senda medical partnership is providing in home visits and medicines, the churches are feeding the hungry, and visiting the prisoners across Matanzas province.

TRAVEL WITH US!

2022-2023 Teams Now Forming

Sept/Oct Nov/Dec Jan 2023

APM will train and care for you as we get there and home. Help you use your gifting before, during, and after the trip. Contact Pastor Kevin for Info.



Get Ready for a Kingdom-sized Adventure! It's unlike any mission trip you have known

The Gospel is extending to the ends of the earth and you can be a part of bringing the Good News.

Make personal connection in prayer, fellowship, encouragement, and Kingdom work.

Forge relationships with lasting potential. See God's Kingdom growing in amazing people and places.



2022 Mission Trip Cost

\$2200 All-inclusive

Training/Materials/Guides

Flights/Baggage

Visas Lodging/Transport/Translators

In Country Meals Flight/Medical Insurance



A PEOPLE THE LORD HAS BLESSED

During the course of our first Mission Team visits of 2022 there was one thing that continued to make itself known. The vision, the mission and the work of the people of La Iglesia Volviendo A La Senda Antigua is just beginning. We have only begun to see the marvels of the hand of God. Remarkable things are still ahead of us. Here are a few snapshots of the work so far this year.



RESTORING

To close, I want to peek around the corner into the 2nd Quarter of 2022. The reason for this is important to those of us connected to La Senda Antigua and our founding Pastors José Santiago and Yamile Cruz. The 1st weekend of April marked the 1st anniversary of Pastor José's passing from this earthly life, with his Dad following just days thereafter. On Saturday, April 2, 2022, Pastora Yami hosted a special



praise concert memorial. There was great music and honest sharing about our struggles during the year. Family and friends from Cuba and the USA shared song, encouragement, and prayers of blessing.



In the early church, believers celebrated the day of the death of a saint. Yami gave me the honor of bringing the message to our La Senda family on Sunday, April 3, the anniversary of my brother's death. Working to find something of value, I remembered a lesson from my Mom who loved him as her own. I was 15. A year earlier, my niece had passed away at only 5 months old. It hit me hard. I kept a flower from her funeral in my room. One day, another niece ran through my room and accidentally knocked the flower to the floor. It was reduced to dust. I lost it. As I screamed, Mom showed up, grabbed me by both ears to focus my attention, looked me in the eye and said-

"Look, the time for this kind of grief and tears is over. If you keep carrying the pain out in front of your life, it's going to destroy you. There's a time, a season for tears and even afterward there are going to be days when you remember and maybe cry some more. But there comes a moment when you have to put grief in its proper place and move forward."

Words cannot describe the losses of 2021 for the people of La Senda Antigua, not just Joseito and José. Many other beloved were lost, too. It has also been an incredibly difficult time to live as a Cuban. But God never took his hand off of us or left us wondering where he was. He caused the work granted to us to thrive in new ways, unveiling gifting of sisters and brothers in Christ in a supernatural manner. We have wept with the only arms strong enough to fashion the universe snugly wrapped around us.

Joseito always loved to talk about "before and after". But, maybe there's also a "during". I am pretty certain my personal loss and pain isn't going away. It'll go with me until Christ comes or calls me home. That's normal. What is important, for all of us is to put that grief where it belongs and march forward. So, April 3, 2022 marks a new phase. A before and after, during.

From today forward, I will pluck that grief from its former place at the center of my field of vision and move it over a bit, so it doesn't block the way forward. Some day soon, I'll put it out of my peripheral vision, so it takes effort to remember the hurt. This morning is the dawning of a new measure of God's mercy. Today we celebrate akin to a sacrifice of praise. But one day, and I pray it won't be long, I plan to celebrate April 3, like our spiritual ancestors on the ancient path, WITH SHOUTS OF JOY! Amen y amen. God bless you.



STAYING CONNECTED

Seasons One & Two of our podcast The Word From The Ancient Path are now streaming, each episode available in English and Spanish.

We share sermons from our pastors and tell the story of God's work in the people of the ancient path.

It's on all major streaming platforms and is a great way to connect over a cup of coffee or on your commute.

Start binge listening now. Season 3 coming this June.



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

ANCIENT PATH MINISTRIES

La Iglesia Volviendo
A La Senda Antigua

ANCIENT PATH ON ALL PLATFORMS. INVITE YOUR FRIENDS ALONG.

WEBSITE

<https://ancientpathministries.org>

FACEBOOK

<facebook.com/ancientpathministries.org>

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INSTAGRAM

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The Lord is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.

My heart leaps for joy,
and with my song I praise him.

The Lord is the strength of his people,
a fortress of salvation for his anointed one.

Save your people and bless your inheritance;
be their shepherd and carry them forever.