

Tom and Cheryl Soerens

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<http://support.crcna.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=5973>

Course on Christian Philosophy in Cuba

In September Tom traveled to Cuba, this being the fourth time he went to teach the leaders of the Christian Reformed Church of Cuba. It was also the second time that he teamed up with Dr. John Kok of Dordt College to teach an intensive course on Christian philosophy. If there are Dordt graduates/parents receiving this letter, it is basically Philosophy 201, so you might have a pretty good idea what the course is about.



"Dr. Kok and I met in Costa Rica in order to then take the flight from Panama to Havana, Cuba. A nasty surprise for me is that my luggage was lost! Sure I had my laptop, but besides that I was left with only the clothes on my back. No great fun to wear the same clothes for 8 days; but remarkably, when I arrived at the airport for the return flight to Costa Rica, they told me my bag had been found just the day before!

The course went wonderfully well. The photo shows about half of the students who worked with us through our long days of study. We thank God that we could clearly speak of life's big issues in a fashion that lines up with Scripture, despite the country's dominant philosophy to the contrary.

Our teaching trip included an overnight stay with Orlando and Eglis, a young pastoral couple raising up a new congregation in the capital city. We thank God for the dedication and sweet spirit of our Cuban brothers and sisters despite the harsh conditions of life in their country."

The story of one of our students

One of the men in our intensive course on Christian philosophy was unfailingly attentive to every word on all the topics being explored, despite the heat and the cramped space of our small classroom. Alexander had himself studied philosophy extensively in the Cuban educational system, Marxist philosophy of course. Now that he is a Christian and a pastor no less, for him this course was like tasting a wonderful new 'flavor' that he hadn't known existed: an exiting blend of worldview and philosophy in biblical perspective. To paraphrase his response : "I'm seeing like never before how all these questions open themselves up in front of the sovereignty of our God and that they hold together wholly and integrally in Him". Praise God!

May God's blessing be on your day today.

In Christ,

Tom and Cheryl Soerens

Prayer needs

- Pray for a sustained and successful recruiting effort to bring a good number of new students into our online courses.
- Pray for God's favor to rest on our final efforts to get the approval for residency in Costa Rica.
- Pray for many families throughout Central America that were affected by the recent floods.

Praise notes

- Praise God for major progress toward getting the Masters in Family Counseling into shape for online study.
- Praise God that Cheryl's Bible study group for Ladies has grown in number to include more than 20 women who study God's Word together weekly.
- Praise God that the work of establishing extension centers in local churches has continued to increase the number of our students overall.

WONDERING ABOUT OUR SUPPORT?

Some of you have written to ask about the level of support coming in to cover the costs of having us in this strategic work of leadership training. While we are so grateful for the loving gifts of God's people, we are experiencing a shortfall of roughly \$1,300 per month when measured against the missionary average. So this note comes as a reminder that there is both need and opportunity to donate (one time or monthly), designated for Tom & Cheryl Soerens (2850 Kalamazoo Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49560) or online. (www.crwm.org/donate).



Christian Reformed World Missions

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