



## What I Saw on My First Trip to Cuba



David Wollen  
PRESIDENT & HOST

My journey to Cuba began as a quest for understanding—understanding the spiritual climate, the state of the church, and the impact of our radio program, Haven Ministries’ El Faro de Redención (The Lighthouse of Redemption). As the new president of Haven, I knew I had to see it with my own eyes.

From the moment I boarded the plane, I knew it would be more than just a typical trip. Across the aisle sat a man in white robes clutching an object wrapped in white paper. I learned he was traveling to Cuba for Santeria worship, a form of Afro-Cuban religion involving idol worship. Already I was beginning

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to understand the spiritual realities of this island nation.

As we disembarked and stepped onto the tarmac, the tropical air hit me—thick, humid, and heavy. Hailing from more northern latitudes, I knew I'd adjust before long. However, by the end of the trip it would be clear there was more to that sense of heaviness than the climate. Economically, socially, and spiritually—the people of Cuba are desperate.

Over the years, the Cuban church has faced incredible hardship. After the revolution, the number of Christians dwindled to a few thousand, but there was a silver lining. Persecution forged unity in the church, with believers crossing denominational lines to stand together. By the 1990s, revival was spreading across the island, but in recent years, that unity has fractured. I heard several pastors and leaders tell this story with tears in their eyes.

Then Covid hit. The shortages and economic devastation were so severe, vast numbers of the

population began to flee. Churches were left without leadership, and the spiritual vacuum deepened. But there was hope. In the midst of this turmoil, El Faro had recently begun to broadcast by radio, blanketing the entire island with daily Bible teaching. There was one place spiritual seekers, Christians, and even pastors could turn for spiritual nourishment. They heard distinctly Cuban voices focused on ministering to Cubans. A one-of-a-kind broadcast by Cubans for Cubans.

On my visit, I had the privilege of attending one of El Faro's conferences for pastors. Though I'm not fluent in Spanish, the sight and sound of dozens and dozens of pastors gathering from all corners of Cuba was overwhelming. Some on horseback, others driving a horse and buggy, and more than a dozen piled into the back of a fifties-era flatbed truck (*see front of newsletter for a picture of this*). Despite the hardships, the church was uniting again for the sake of the Gospel.

These encouraging developments in the church stand

in stark contrast to the more than 70% of Cuba's population involved at some level in Santeria, a form of witchcraft that has overshadowed the country for decades. Yet in this spiritual darkness God is moving.

I left Cuba with three strong convictions:

- 1) The spiritual battle in Cuba is very real.
- 2) The Lord is blessing the ministry of El Faro in order to bless His church.
- 3) Christ is working powerfully through His church in Cuba.

In the coming year, there will be more to share. Danny Rojas, the director and host of El Faro, is seeing a response in the last few months unlike anything we've seen before. We believe there are great days ahead and look forward to what Christ is doing. •



**Help bring the light of Christ to Cuba at [elfaro.org](http://elfaro.org).**

**A group of El Faro supporters and team members preparing to attend a pastors' conference in Puerto Esperanza, Cuba.**



**A mass exodus,  
A pastor shortage,  
A nationwide blackout.**

**El Faro brings light  
to the Cuban people.**

El Faro de Redención fills a unique void in the country as the only Christian radio program made *for* Cubans *by* Cubans—reaching every corner of the island with biblical content leading listeners to Christ every day.

Would you make a generous gift today to help listeners throughout Cuba hear the Good News?



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scan this QR code to make your gift today.**



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# A Lighthouse of Hope



Danny Rojas  
DIRECTOR & HOST  
OF EL FARO DE REDENCIÓN



The lighthouse at Morro Castle (known locally as *Castillo de los Tres Santos Reyes del Morro*) in Havana was built between 1589 and 1630 to protect the port city from pirates and invaders. This Cuban landmark was the inspiration behind the name of El Faro de Redención—or Redemption Lighthouse—to pay homage to the Cuban heritage and speak to the goal of El Faro: to bring Light to a nation seeking hope in the darkness.

On February 5, 2018, El Faro de Redención aired its first 30-minute broadcast on Trans World Radio, reaching the entire island of Cuba. This was the fulfillment of a dream held by Charles Morris, the former president and host of Haven Today (*pictured right*). He dreamt of sharing the message of Jesus with Cuba—bringing the hope of the Gospel to a nation filled with a great number of challenges.

Since that moment, El Faro has been broadcasting 5 days a week, 52 weeks a year, sharing the message of Christ with Cuban listeners for over 6 years.

From the very beginning, El Faro’s mission was clear: to create a Christ-centered, Spanish-



language program that not only offered biblical teaching but also gave Cuban Christians a voice to share their testimonies and spread the Gospel across the island.

## EXPANDING THE REACH: A GROWING PRESENCE IN CUBA

Daniel Warne, who led the program from its inception until January 2023, shaped the early years of El Faro. Initially, Daniel’s Bible teachings served as the cornerstone of the broadcast, alongside testimonies from Cubans who had come to faith in Christ. Over time, the program grew, incorporating interviews with Cuban church leaders, as well as teaching series delivered by Cuban pastors. This expansion allowed El Faro to connect with an even larger audience, both in Cuba and among Cuban communities abroad.

As the ministry's presence in Cuba deepened, the program received a growing number of emails and letters from listeners, sharing how the teachings and testimonies resonated deeply with them. Visits to Cuba also helped El Faro build lasting relationships with local churches, providing opportunities for teaching and hosting conferences for Cuban pastors and leaders, introducing them to Christ-centered preaching.

## A NEW CHAPTER: THE MINISTRY CONTINUES TO GROW

In 2023, I had the privilege of stepping into the role of director and speaker for El Faro. Building on the vision of Charles and Daniel, El Faro collaborates with Cuban pastors and leaders, enabling us to produce content in both the United States and Cuba, making El Faro the only program to share Christ-centered content for Cubans by Cubans.

One exciting development has been the introduction of a weekly question-and-answer segment, which allows listeners to engage more directly with the content. We also launched an active WhatsApp community, where Cuban Christians can connect, share, and grow together. This digital space has proven to be a powerful tool for encouraging believers and ministering to listeners personally. In the past year alone, we've ministered to over 500 pastors and leaders from more



(FROM RIGHT TO LEFT) Danny Rojas, David Wollen, El Faro supporter Daniel Winkowitsch, and Pastor Joel Dopico at El Faro's 2024 pastors' conference in Puerto Esperanza.



El Faro's first director and host, Daniel Warne, teaches at a pastors' conference in Pinar del Rio, Cuba, 2019.



(FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) David Wollen, Danny Rojas, Daniel Winkowitsch and Wim Wetzel enjoy Cuban coffee at a rest stop and discuss ministry opportunities in Cuba on the way to Puerto Esperanza.



Danny Rojas and David Wollen pose for a picture with a beautiful sunset overlooking the mogotes, limestone mounds that surround the valley of Viñales in Pinar del Rio, Cuba.

than 16 different denominations across Cuba—teaching, training, and fostering a spirit of unity in the body of Christ.

Through all of this, one thing has become abundantly clear: God is at work in Cuba, and we are humbled to be part of His work. El Faro is not just a program—it's a beacon of hope, a lighthouse shining the light of Christ in a dark and often difficult place. We've seen God's faithfulness in so many ways, and we trust that He will continue to provide for our needs and use this ministry to draw people to Himself.

As we continue to expand our outreach, we are committed to walking alongside the Cuban church, encouraging pastors and leaders, and reaching more people with the Gospel. God has been incredibly gracious to us since El Faro began, making it difficult not to feel a sense of divine purpose in our mission.

Through every broadcast, every story shared, and every relationship built, El Faro continues to shine brightly, offering hope, encouragement, and the message of salvation to all who listen. Our prayer is that this lighthouse will continue to burn brightly for years to come, guiding many to the heart of the Gospel and the glory of Christ. •

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# Meet Enrique Parra

## El Faro Listener from Holguín



**Danny Rojas**  
DIRECTOR & HOST  
OF EL FARO DE REDENCIÓN

I am excited to introduce you to Enrique Parra, a dedicated listener from Holguín, a city in eastern Cuba. Enrique, affectionately known as Kike (pronounced Kee-Keh), plays a vital leadership role at his church, Iglesia Shekinah, where he serves as the Sunday School teacher for the youth.

In November 2023, Kike attended our pastors' conference and, since then, has become not only a regular listener of

El Faro but also one of our biggest advocates. He consistently encourages others to tune in, sharing his testimony about the transformative power of God's Word when it is centered on Christ.

Enrique's pastor invited him to participate in last year's conference, which had a profound impact on his life and ministry. While his church was already gospel-centered, Kike was particularly captivated by the phrase "the centrality of

Christ." He shares that it helped him understand the importance of reading the Bible through the lens of God's overarching story of redemption and living life by resting in the finished work of Christ. "Christ is our all-in-all," Kike says, "my salvation, my life, and my perseverance all come from Him. Jesus has become the center of my existence, my identity, my strength, and the only way to the Father."

When I asked Kike how El Faro



**Kike and Danny take a selfie during a break at the 2024 pastors' conference in Holguín.**



**Kike (dressed in black at the center) teaching his youth Sunday School class at Iglesia Shekinah.**

has influenced both his life and his teaching, his response was an encouragement to me:

*El Faro de Redención has deepened my understanding of the centrality of Christ. Through the programs, I have found peace in Jesus, experiencing the tranquility that comes from His righteousness and forgiveness. While this does not exempt me from my responsibilities before God, it instills in me the confidence that I do not rely on my own strength; instead, I depend completely on His Spirit and His Word.*

*I have made a commitment to ensure my classes are*

*Christ-centered. Many teenagers have already confronted their own sin, and by grasping the centrality of Christ and getting to know the Christ of the Bible—trusting in His promises, His righteousness, His forgiveness, and His redemption—they have found peace and security. They are experiencing true rest and have been empowered to cling to the Gospel.*

Kike and his pastor joined us again in 2024 for our conference in Holguín, along with other church leaders from Iglesia Shekinah and one of Kike's Sunday School students. This young man,

inspired by what he learned, has already begun preaching Jesus to his friends and is eager to learn more about sharing the Good News effectively. He, too, is an enthusiastic listener of El Faro and encourages others to tune in.

I thank God for the privilege of partnering with individuals like Enrique Parra, whose heart for Christ and commitment to the Gospel is evident in all he does. Through El Faro, we are not only sharing the Gospel throughout Cuba but also helping believers around the world see Christ more clearly and worship Him more fully. Thank you, Jesus! •

**Your gift to El Faro will  
make a difference.**



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Your ultimate gifts also exceed most lifetime giving options in several smart and powerful ways.

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 **joey.lopez@haventoday.org**

# Witnessing a Work of God in Cuba



**SCAN THE CODE TO WATCH ONLINE**



David Wollen

Danny Rojas

News out of Cuba is often bleak, but today is a little bit different. Join David Wollen as he speaks with El Faro host Danny Rojas shortly after returning from Cuba with exciting news of how God is at work, even in the midst of challenging circumstances.

[youtube.com/@HAVENTODAY](https://youtube.com/@HAVENTODAY)