



Testimonials of Transformation:

On October 14–17 the AVANCE community gathered in Orlando, FL for 'Experiencia Avance', bringing together 40 Latino pastors and key leaders from Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and the United States. This biannual gathering serves as a space for members of the AVANCE community to learn and be equipped with practical tools and strategies for implementing holistic mission approaches within their congregations and communities. Robert Guerrero, Senior Catalyst of CTCNA's Latino Initiative, set the tone the first evening with a powerful message about metanoia, challenging participants to let go of old practices and structures in order to embrace transformation.

The event included meaningful site visits to The Gathering Church and the National Latino Evangelical Coalition (NaLEC), where attendees met Pastors Gabriel and Jeanette Salguero and explored ministries empowering the Latino Church in the USA. Throughout the experience, participants shared stories of growth in church planting and celebrated the Church's impact across borders. From connecting families to vital services and local churches to cultivating new faith communities in homes, *Experiencia Avance* highlighted inspiring examples of the Church in action.

Attendee Norberto "Pachy" Quesada, one of the key leaders from the AVANCE church planters network in Cuba, expressed,

"Being the Church is not an activity; it is a living Gospel. We plant churches under mango trees or in garbage dumps. Vulnerable people have had their lives transformed through the Gospel, and many have been baptized."

We are grateful that Experiencia AVANCE was a time of learning, collaboration, and transformation for all the attendees, equipping leaders with tools to strengthen their communities for years to come!

