



"Our actions": World Interfaith Harmony Week celebrated in Cardenas, Cuba.

As part of the World Interfaith Harmony Week, the "Our Actions" Event took place in the city of Cárdenas, Matanzas province, between February 5th and 7th. The main venue of the event was the Reformed Presbyterian Church "Juan G. Hall" and the Christian Center for Reflection and Dialogue, CCRD, as the second location.

The opening took place on Tuesday the 5th at the CCRD, with the lecture "A view of Women in Islam" by Lic. Jorge Elías Gil Viant (artist, professor of the Ecumenical Institute of Religious Sciences "Rafael Cepeda Clemente" and Muslim) and the MSc. Mayla Acedo Bravo (art historian and member of the Catholic Church).



Diego Valdés, Coordinator at the CCRD, introducing the lecturers, MSc. Mayla Acedo Bravo and Lic. Jorge Elías Gil.



MSc. Mayla Acedo Bravo during the lecture. Close to her the table with the bibliographical exhibition of the documents related to Islam.

The specialists of the Center made a bibliographical exhibition of the documents related to Islam that the library of this space for Christian dialogue has, and exchanged with the lecturers on the subject. This collection of documents increased in size due to a donation of Islamic books delivered by the lecturers.

The headquarters of the Presbyterian Church, meanwhile, hosted on the morning of February 6 the lecture "Islam and catwalk: current trends in Islamic women's fashion", also by Mayla Acedo, with an introduction on Quranic aspects that heighten women in Islam, by Jorge Elías Gil Viant.



MSc. Mayla Acedo: lecture about Islamic women's fashion at Presbyterian Church, introduced by Lic. Jorge Elías Gil.

A donation of Islamic books was made for the library of this Presbyterian Church, which included several copies of titles that explain Islam in its fundamental aspects. These books will be available to members of the church and to all interested parties in the city of Cárdenas, since this library is public. Pastor Sarah García Gómez introduced the meeting to the diverse audience: members of the Church and visitors to the *Grosse Pointe Memorial Church* of Michigan, United States.



Lic. Jorge Elías Gil made the donation of Islamic books for the Presbyterian Church Library.

In the afternoon the exhibition of paintings "Our actions" was opened, by Gil Viant himself, who through the use of hands as a symbol, illustrated the different actions that can be taken to improve our lives and that of others. Next, a jazz concert was held on the *Mestizaje* Project by Cárdenas, which with its mastery drew the applause of the participating audience.



Pastors Sarah García Gómez and Alison Infante Zamora (Presbyterian Church), Lic. Jorge Elías Gil (Muslim) and MSc. Mayla Acedo (Catholic), during the opening of the painting exhibition "Our actions."



Lic. Jorge Elías Gil sharing with the members of the Presbyterian Church about the concepts represented by the paintings, showing hands with helps actions and environment care.



Pastor Alison Infante Zamora and Lic. Jorge Elías Gil sharing with the public the main ideas in the Bible and the Koran about dialogue, understanding and peace.



Jazz concert at "Our actions" opening, by *Mestizaje* Project.



Every morning brothers and sisters; Catholics, Muslims and Protestants; had the opportunity to share breakfast together.



Sharing breakfast: MSc. Mayla Acedo, Catholic; Lic. Jorge Elías Gil, Muslim; Presbyterian Pastor Peter Henry of *Grosse Pointe Memorial Church* of Michigan, United States; and the boy Demian Nieves, Catholic.

The last activity of Event, on the morning of February 7, had a marked ecological character: Jorge Elías Gil and Pastor Alison Infante Zamora, as representatives of Islam and the Reformed Presbyterian Church, planted together in the garden of the Church the *occuje*, a timber and medicinal tree, accompanied by the songs of those present.



Lic. Jorge Elías Gil and Pastor Alison Infante Zamora planted the *occuje*, a timber and medicinal tree.

Pastor Peter Henry of the Grosse Pointe Memorial Presbyterian Church spoke about the symbolism of this moment, and pastor Sarah García Gómez commented on how many beautiful actions can be done as long as we are together. It was an emotional closing for an event that for three days united brothers of different religions.



The celebration of a World Interfaith Harmony Week was proposed by King Abdullah II of Jordan in 2010 and approved by the UN. Every year it is celebrated all over the world and thousands of events are held simultaneously, with the purpose of building solid bases of interreligious dialogue by sharing knowledge and mutual respect through knowledge and culture.

Days of Islamic Culture at Matanzas Evangelical Seminary of Theology. February 12th to 14th, 2019.

During the **Days of Islamic Culture** at Matanzas Evangelical Seminary of Theology, February 12th to 14th, 2019, similar activities were shared with students and professors of this important knowledge center, as actions connected with the other ones organized in Cardenas city, 5th to 7th February. The next picture review shows the main moments of these **Days of Islamic Culture**.

February 12th, 2019, afternoon. Art exhibition “Our Prophets”



Opening of the art exhibition, waiting to go inside the gallery.



Professor Dr. Adolfo Ham reads texts below.



Lic. Jorge Elías Gil sharing with professors and students.



Visitors during the opening.

February 12th, 2019, evening. Lecture "A view of Muslim women in Islam."



Donation of Islamic books to the library of SET.



Students and professors planted together a tree as end action of the *Days of Islamic Culture*.



Lic. Jorge Elias Gil sharing concept of peace.



Students carrying the tree to plant.



Lic. Jorge Elias carrying the tree.



Professors of the SET and Lic. Jorge Elías Gil preparing the tree to be planted.





Seminario Evangélico de Teología de Matanzas
Dos de Mayo Final, Apartado 1439
Telef: 53-45-242866 ext 25
Email: chuchi@seminario.co.cu



Matanzas, February 14th, 2019

To: Lic. Jorge Elías Gil Viant

Dear brother:

With this letter we thank your active participation in activities fulfilled in the **Days of Islamic Culture**, at the Matanzas Evangelical Seminary of Theology (SET), from 12th to 14th February 2019.

The **Days** began Tuesday 12th afternoon with the painting exhibition "Our Prophets", by Jorge Elías, including 17 paintings, using Islamic calligraphy and arabic to show 25 prophets names and koranic texts. Each painting show also an explanation text below with the traslation to spanish of the prophet name an koranic text used inside the art work. 25 prophets in the Koran are mentioned by their names, 23 of them are named before in the Bible. This make possible use the spiritual legacy of these prophets, through both sacred books, the Bible and the Koran, as a dialogue bridge between both religions, Christianity and Islam.

The **Days of Islamic Culture** were organized connected with the World Interfaith Harmony Week, by that reason we want to congratulate Jorge Elias for that good proposal, to encourage biblical and koranic knowledge exchange and to emphasize similarities and common meanings for understanding between Christianity and Islam.

It was very interesting the lecture given Tuesday 12th evening; "A view of women in Islam", with a breve introduction by Lic. Jorge Elías Gil through koranics texts about Mariam, (the mother of Jesus), her family, her relationship with her son Jesus and her high spiritual level. After MSc. Mayla Acedo Bravo shared an analysis of present life realities of Muslim women today, among them a remarkable one: the production of the most important World Fashion Houses for Muslim women.

Wednesday 13th afternoon was given a donation of Islamic books to the library of SET, which will make easier the references to students and professors about subjects related to Islam.

To end the **Days**, during the time of celebration in the chapel, was planted a tree. In this action of real ecological character, took part professors and students of the institution.

It was a pleasure host you these days between us and enjoy this moments of culture, spirituality and brotherhood. It will be great for our institution to receive you again in future occasions.

Sincerely,

Jesús Martínez León (Chuchi)
SET Gallery Manager