



EAST HARLEM  
FELLOWSHIP

# The JOURNEY

Come. Connect. Contribute.

Spring 2018

## Greetings Friends!

This week I have been challenged with Hebrews 1:6 "without faith we cannot please God." In the Old Testament the people of God found themselves constantly drawn back to Egypt when there was a famine in their land. Then they would go to Egypt, become entangled and God would have to deliver them. The journey in and through the wilderness always signifies a stretching of our faith!

If we do not have faith, we cannot please God. God is not as impressed with our morality, our good works, the words we speak or the sacrifices we make for Him as much as he is with faith. Faith must be demonstrated just like love. We all claim to be good stewards by saving (hoarding) our stuff when in reality what we are saying is we have no faith. We are reliant on seeing something with our natural eyes before we will trust or step out.

May the Lord Jesus help us with our faith. Jesus prayed: "Lord give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:9-13). Remember that in Exodus 16 the manna that was provided for the people of God was only allowed to be kept for one day. The next day they would have to gather new manna. Could it be that God wants us to invest all that we have for the Kingdom instead of spending what we have on ourselves?

What are you living for?



Hector Vega  
*Senior Pastor*



## A Living Epistle

### Nelly Wilmot's Testimony

Nelly's journey of faith began as a young girl. In school, she had Biblical studies and grew up in a family that had a syncretistic approach to the Christian faith. They mixed Christianity with animistic, spiritual and ancestral practices that are native to her home country of South Africa. She doesn't know when she asked Jesus into her life. It was only later in life that she realized the difference between knowing about God and having a personal relationship with Him.

As an adult, she continued to involve herself in Christian communities. However, life as she knew it came to a halt when her marriage gradually took a turn and became abusive. She and her children sought refuge at a shelter and lived on food stamps which was completely different from the life they lived with her husband. It was in the shelter that she found her faith. She was invited to a Sunday Bible study hosted by women from East Harlem Fellowship at the shelter. She battled with the thought that she probably knew what was being taught but she decided to give it a try. These studies gave her the opportunity to ask the questions that were on her heart about the Bible, God and her personal situation. One teacher disciplined her and was there for her. One day after a lesson, they asked if someone wanted to give their life to Christ. Nelly stood up to rededicate her life to Him! Shortly thereafter, she attended a food drive at East Harlem Fellowship and each Sunday after that she was at every service and outreach! She was baptized in June 2014.

Over time, God did a deep work in Nelly. He delivered her from the PTSD associated with the abuse she experienced. He freed her from unforgiveness and healed her emotional and spiritual wounds. God has given her peace and assurance that He is her protection. His loving hand has also worked on her children. They are happy and well adjusted in school.

Today Nelly pours into the lives of others. Some friends think she is “too spiritual” while others view her walk with Jesus as inspirational. When problems arise, Nelly seeks God and He answers! The joy, peace and security God has given, informs her outlook on life. Nelly says, “As long as I have breath to breathe I will praise You, Lord!”

# Cuba Missions Trip

## The Beginning of a Fruitful Relationship

**To many, Cuba seems to be an enchanted yet forbidden island in the Caribbean. A place that has been lost in time that screams of yesteryear — a time when things were much simpler. As we embarked on this trip we realized we really didn't know what to expect. All we had was an expectation that God was at work in Cuba and that He was able to do above and beyond what we could have asked or thought!**



Our trip began with God's favor. We arrived at JFK airport at 3am with eleven bags full of donations, our personal luggage, and with the go ahead to travel, hallelujah! Upon arrival in Cuba, we were met with the steel faces of those who worked airport security. As we were preparing to walk outside the doors, we were stopped and directed to the inspection table. We realized that there was a possibility of being prevented from bringing any of our gifts into the country. These were our provisions to meet the needs of those who we were visiting. Despite the stop, the favor of God remained on us. After looking inside our first bag and opening the second, we were told that we were cleared to leave the airport with no further questions asked. This was one many instances we saw the hand of God guide and protect us throughout the whole trip.

The lessons and blessings God had in store ahead are too many to tell. We saw the church in Cuba as a beautiful example that in Christ you can be truly free even in a country with an oppressive government. Only the Holy Spirit can make this possible. We also saw the local church, that although poor, was rich in joy, peace, and passion to serve and live life with each other. They shared all they had which reminded us of the church in the book of Acts. At the end, these precious brothers and sisters so were grateful beyond description, but we felt that we had been blessed even more! The Lord has proven that when we step out in faith and obedience with our two fish and five loaves, He is faithful to multiply and give the increase.



## **A Call to Action: One Dollar a Day**

We have fallen in love with the Church in Cuba. We look forward to the opportunity to keep visiting there. That is why, for the foreseeable future, Cuba will be a preferred missions trip destination for us. We acknowledge the blessing and encouragement they are to our faith, which is why Cuba will be part of our Urban Mission Academy. Mission trips to Cuba will be part of our curriculum to develop evangelical disciplines and skills to effectively share the love and Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your prayers and gifts. Join our **One Dollar a Day Challenge** to support pastoral families serving in Cuba and other parts of the world. One dollar a day goes very far in many parts of the globe. Help us help those making a difference by becoming a monthly partner of EHF Missions.

Visit [eastharlemfellowship.org/donate](http://eastharlemfellowship.org/donate) for more details.



# First Quarter Highlights

## Times of Refreshing

In January, EHF ceased all ministry activities and everyone was encouraged to use the month to sit at the feet of Jesus. It was a season of shutting in, replenishing and finding a quiet secret place. It was an awesome month of fasting which culminated with a special visitation from the Lord during our All Day Prayer Service on Sunday, January 14th. As we enter Spring 2018 we still feel the effects of the refreshing and infilling experienced during our January refreshing.

## Join us for the Journey

### Life Groups

The Bible describes the Church in the book of Acts as a successful and thriving community of believers. The scriptures tell us that they made time and took advantage of opportunities to come and meet together to share the joys and struggles of life— not just on Sundays. Today, our Christianity may consist of four Sundays and four Wednesdays a month (oftentimes less). It is no surprise so many of us struggle in our walks. The truth is that eight two-hour visits to God's house is not enough time to grow and strengthen our faith. We are called to a lifestyle that is supposed to include our brothers and sisters in the faith. That is why we are spreading out across the city to meet in public places and in church members' homes as a way to strengthen our fellowship and nourish our faith. In April we will be starting the Life Groups initiative in neighborhoods throughout NYC. These small groups will be a place to invite neighbors, friends, coworkers and family members to hear the Gospel in a relational way and to traverse this Christian walk with each other— living life together and standing side by side through the trials and tests of our journey.

### New Church Community Service

East Harlem is a dynamic and energetic community that bursts into color and energy during the late morning and early afternoon hours of its weekends. That is why we are so excited for the opportunity to expand our availability and access to the community by having a second service. Starting on Sunday, May 20th, East Harlem Fellowship will launch a second time slot for Sunday services. It will be at 12 noon inside our current location (Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics, 115th St and Pleasant Ave). Please help us pray and support us by coming to visit. Visit [eastharlemfellowship.org](http://eastharlemfellowship.org) often to stay up to date.

### Social Enterprise

Coming soon East Harlem Fellowship will publish initiatives that will broaden our community impact and reach. Visit [eastharlemfellowship.org](http://eastharlemfellowship.org) often to stay up to date.

#### SERVICE TIMES

SUNDAYS 10-11:30AM | 12-1:30PM

WEDNESDAYS 7:30-8:30PM

Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics

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