



CRGA Newsletter

May | 2022 |

Announcement

We have two upcoming Vision Trips with seats available if you would like to join us:

October 14 to 21
October 28 to November 4

For more information, please email:
waltnoordam@outlook.com

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Encounters in Cuba

~ with Executive Director, Werner Peters



I am writing this article as we finish up our tour in Cuba. It is quite warm, 31 Celsius, but despite the daily heat, we are grateful that we achieved our objectives.

Let me tell you about a few of the encounters we had with some of the pastors.

Pastor Lazaroo

We met Pastor Lazaroo for the first time this trip and have decided to support him. He was saved as an adult out of a Santeria background (a cultish voodoo style religion that is filled with spiritism, mediumship, sacrifice and more). He was a practitioner of these dark arts and one day as he was preparing himself for a ritual, his wife, who was not even a believer, began to pray against what he was attempting to do. He was unsuccessful with his ritual, and after learning that his wife prayed for him, became a believer on the spot. He saw that there was a power that was greater than the power he received from voodoo practices. Today, he lives and ministers in an area ridden with Santeria and is being used of the Lord to free others out of bondage.



Pastor Markoz

We had lunch with Pastor Markoz, and he seemed kind of quiet until we asked him some questions. WOW! Are we glad we asked! He is the chairman of the Evangelism Commission for the Eastern Baptist Convention. (No relation to Canada's Baptist Convention). He had just finished teaching (get this) 8-12 year-olds in door to door work, using the wordless gospel among other methods of communicating the gospel. Just this past weekend they spread out in their town, and roughly 40 people (adults) came to faith in Christ. These will all receive follow up. But even if only half of these professions are genuine, what an amazing story to show that one does not need an apologetics degree to share the gospel in Cuba!



We had a duffel bag full of shoes that we brought out of the van and asked all who were present to take what was needed to help themselves and their families. I had to hide my tears from them as they genuinely rejoiced over something that is so simple and easily had by us in our own country.

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A Note from the President

~Dave Ross

A year ago, I commented on the huge changes in the Cuban economy and how those (currency unification) changes were hitting the Cuban people so hard, with the huge price increases in food and other basic costs of life. It gives me no pleasure to inform you that things have turned out even worse there now than previously expected. Somehow though the Cuban people continue to survive, as basically the changes are “more of the same” they have lived through since the “special period” of the 1990s (the collapse of the USSR hit them exceptionally hard). However, the good news, if one could call it that, is that a year ago our Canadian dollar bought 20 Cuban pesos, and now our Canadian dollar buys 80 Cuban pesos. So, this year we made the change to pay our Cuban pastors and missionaries in CAD, and now when they receive their (\$70) support each month from us - from you - well, from God via you and us, it makes a huge difference to their ability to feed and care for their families. I am overwhelmed by the reality of this, that God has blessed and uses this little ministry so effectively. For excellence in stewardship, it probably cannot get any better for them and us than this.

Therefore, I simply must thank from the bottom of my heart each of you who are sponsoring a Cuban pastor or missionary. With our rising cost of living here, \$70 is starting to look like a restaurant meal for two for date night. But for a Cuban pastor and his family, who receive the equivalent of CAD\$50 monthly from their church (for those churches who can afford to pay that much, and most cannot, especially the small rural churches and missions where virtually all of our pastors and missionaries serve), we can quickly see that your sponsorship goes a long way to covering the real cost of living there, which is presently about CAD\$125 a month for a family of four (and always climbing monthly, as their rate of inflation is far worse than ours).

In this regard, I am asking all our readers of this newsletter to prayerfully consider “adopting” a Cuban pastor or missionary (or partner with another family to sponsor a Cuban pastor). We have recently been asked for sponsorship by a Cuban pastor in western Cuba, on behalf of a team of 12 pastors and missionaries under his shepherding whose former foreign sponsor died last year. These needy pastors also happen to be under the authority of the Eastern Baptist Convention, with whom we have been working since our first day in Cuba many years ago. And this is after we added 6 new pastors during our trip last fall, and now 4 more pastors in our current trip just finished. But quite frankly, although we continue with our other projects including building core homes, sending food containers and (finally) starting our water filter manufacturing program, there just is no better kingdom return on investment than supporting national pastors and missionaries who are then able to focus their time and effort on winning more Cubans to our Lord Jesus Christ.

So, I pray that our Lord whom we serve together will touch more of His people here in Canada to give to support His beautiful, faithful servants in Cuba. And let us continue to keep all our Cuban pastors, missionaries, and their families, and all our brothers and sisters in Cuba in our prayers. Thank you for all that you do unto the least of them through this ministry. May God bless and keep you through these times and may your gifts to them through this ministry continue to be a sweet-smelling sacrifice to our God.



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Pastor Yoandris

This pastor, his wife and 12 year old child escaped injury when their homemade kerosene stove blew up in their kitchen. They somehow repaired it and continue to use it. The kerosene is suspended in an upside down 2 litre pop bottle, and a plastic tube conveys the fuel to a burner. We took up a small collection for them and encouraged them to buy an electric hotplate. The town he is in was the furthest region from our resort (a five hour drive), but it was worth it to meet with this humble man and his dear wife. They are labouring faithfully and are preparing to baptize some new believers.



The gospel is on the move in Cuba. There are over 700 Baptist churches in the eastern part of Cuba. When we asked how many mission stations there were the answer blew me away. He said, literally, we have as many mission stations (700) and most of them are on the verge of becoming organized churches!

As difficult as it is to live in Cuba, people are still finding the bread that has come down from heaven and are finding the water that quenches their spiritual thirst, once and for all! Pray, pray, pray for Cuba. The needs are many. We need your help.

Please consider giving to this very important work

Werner Peters

werner1950@gmail.com

Pastor Osmar Selazar

~ Amy Hayden

Pastor Osmar is pastoring a house church outside of Holguin but was formally pastoring in Maisi. He was supported by One22 ministries during his time in Maisi but has not received support since leaving the area. His current church gathers in a garage as they have no church building. His goal is to put concrete on the roof of his house to build a church.

He is currently in need of cement and ½ inch rebar, which is available at the time of our visit with him, but availability fluctuates.



Pastor Osmar Selazar



Dear Friends and Supporters of Calvary Road,

A few weeks ago, I observed and partook in the Lord's Supper for the first time since the pandemic began. How sweet this symbol is to reflect on our union with Christ. My prayer is that despite any worldly restrictions we currently face, and may face in the future, our faith in Christ will remain strong and steadfast.

I am happy to report that the bookkeeping for 2021 has been completed and our charity is in a strong financial position. All donation receipts were mailed via Canada Post in January 2022. If you did not receive it, please get in touch with me.

In 2021 we accomplished quite a few things by the Grace of God. Some highlights are:

- Assisted in sending down a shipping container of food
- Continued to support over 40 pastors and missionaries
- Resumed traveling to Cuba, with a team of 6 that flew down in December
- Completed various projects

As we look ahead to the remainder of 2022, we hope to continue our regular cadence of making several trips to Cuba per year, Lord willing. We will use these trips to bring funds to Cuba, encourage our Cuban brothers and sisters, and continue to seek more ways to minister and serve one another.

I close this message hopeful for the future, the expansion of God's kingdom, and the return of Christ.

Blessings and Grace be with you all,

Austin D. So



~ Rice & Beans Shipment ~
Pastor Werner Peters and Pastor Josue Legra

Ways to Give

Send a cheque to:
Calvary Road Gospel Association
P.O. Box 50209 Sunnybrook P.O.
Toronto, ON M4G 0B5

E-transfer:
CalvaryRoadGospelAssociation@gmail.com
(Please indicate your name and email address in the transfer message)

Via Canada Helps:
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/4454>

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please advise us by way of email:
waltnoordam@outlook.com

