

CALVARY ROAD GOSPEL ASSOCIATION

SPECIAL BULLETIN

June 2020



CALVARY ROAD
GOSPEL ASSOCIATION



Note from the Executive Director

location within the island. Cubans have constantly dealt with scarcity in the last 60 years. We have had just one decade of memorable abundance - the 80's.

Almost thirty years after a "special period" (the '90's decade that followed the breakup of the USSR) that drowned the island in desperation; just when Cuban people thought the end of scarcity was around the corner the coronavirus shows up with another new round of shortages of all goods, beheading the least hope for prosperity.



Even though our rationing system remains as a little breath of air, it is enough for just 7-10 days for families with kids and 14 days for families without them; the street vendor prices have skyrocketed and people are preoccupied with the most crucial task these last few months - discovering where to buy food for the day.

Shortages of rice and beans, vegetables, meat, fish, eggs or cooking oil on the free market or CUC's stores cause our options to be less than few. Massive lines form when government stores provide us with chicken, ground meat, cooking oil or hygiene products. The availability is so limited that one item of each is allowed and maybe 20% of the line will get anything. The rest have to go home empty-handed. Life is a

challenge every day, specifically for those people without pension or a steady income.

For you to have a more accurate idea I will give an example of the real life of an average family. I have a friend who has two boys. She cooks one meal a day around 3:00 pm to make the food last a little longer. When her teens wake up in the morning they need breakfast. Breakfast? Well, a tea of lemon leaves and half a tiny bun will have to make do for breakfast. Let's call it a breakfast. The other half a bun is eaten the day before. Why? (To understand this, you should know that the rationed bread in Cuba is sold one day ahead). Lunch? Just a little bit of rice and beans the first 7-10 days of the month. The eggs (ten per person per month); sounds really good, but except for one month all the other months are 30-31 days. So, they aren't enough. Supper? Maybe some boiled bananas or sweet potatoes.

This was exactly the way it was in the 90's, when the Soviet Union collapsed and the stores were empty in the whole island.

Any help is significant - whether it's food, hygiene products or medicines. All will be welcomed heartily. Thanks in advance on behalf of our people. God bless and honor your efforts to help us."



Dear Friends of Calvary Road:

How grateful we are to our God and to you that we are not doing this work alone! The task is rewarding, but overwhelming. A few years ago, we were dealing with devastating hurricanes that destroyed homes and churches. Currently we are dealing with the effects of the Covid-19 epidemic.

This brief letter is going out as an emergency appeal to ask (if God moves you) to help us to help our Cuban brothers and sisters.

First, let me share an article I received from one of our former translators on the island, in answer to some questions I put to her (I have added some explanatory notes wherever necessary).

"Yes, the shortage of food has indeed affected us all. Some are struggling more than others depending on wealth, age and

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There, you now have an idea of how our Cuban brothers and sisters are struggling. The Covid-19 crisis has brought Cuba's tourism industry to a screeching halt, which in turn has caused a currency crisis on the island. This is on the heels of the loss of capacity by their former major trading partners Venezuela and Brazil, who as you may know now have their own severe problems and can no longer support Cuba as well.

Here in Canada of course, most of us have only been "inconvenienced" by Covid-19, by having to isolate in our comfortable homes to "flatten the curve". Already, things are opening up for most of us again. Always, we have had plenty of food and always we have had all our essential needs met. Staying home has also resulted in many of us spending less on ourselves lately in restaurants and on shopping and travel.

At Calvary Road, we see an opportunity here to connect these dots and we have a deep desire to help out our Cuban brothers and sisters with their currently desperate need for basic food and other essential items. In God's providence, we have been connected to a Christian charity in Texas that would like to send 15 containers of basic food and essential goods to both the Cuban Eastern Baptist Convention and the Cuban Western Baptist Convention (they have funding for only 4.5 containers at the present time and have asked for our help). We would like to support their endeavour, because they have been able to clear some bureaucratic hurdles that will enable the food to arrive very quickly. The container that we will help pay for will go directly to the Eastern Baptist Convention where our Pastor Josue will see that it gets divided up equally to all of the churches.

Would you be willing to help us in this effort? Please ask the Lord what He would like you to do. Our Cuban family of believers would be so encouraged to know that you stand with them by sharing in this most basic way. Thank you so much for your consideration, and may God bless you for your support in this, whether financially or in prayer.

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

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

All general donations received by Calvary Road this summer (Jun – Jul – Aug) will go to this special food and essential goods relief program.

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