

CALVARY ROAD GOSPEL ASSOCIATION

April 2020



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GOSPEL ASSOCIATION



Note from the Executive Director

At the time of this writing, our provincial government had just announced a state of emergency due to the spread of the Covid-19 virus. So I want to share some thoughts with you about this crisis considered in view of this ministry we share together in Cuba.

Now, with respect to the present crisis in our land - church services cancelled, restaurants shuttered and stock markets tanking world wide, it is tempting to be overwhelmed by our current circumstances. As I reflected on this barrage of bad news, I wondered what we can learn from these testings, in particular as it relates to the ministry that God has entrusted to us. Let me list several things I have observed.

1. That veneer of civility that generally governs our society is very thin indeed. Fear tips the scales and crowds become irrational. Western individualism is nowhere as evident as during a crisis. This is a good time to remind ourselves that our brothers and sisters in Cuba live under much greater difficulty all the time. We have witnessed first-hand how many believers, even when faced with shortages, will not hesitate to share what they have with their neighbours. Now is the time for believers everywhere to 'put on Christ'. In other words, it is our time to shine. Help those who need help. Do not be anxious. And pray that God softens hearts through all of this.

2. The bare shelves we see in stores everywhere is a first-time-ever experience for many of us. May I remind you that this is an every-day occurrence for Cubans? Imagine that the shortages you face now of only a few items is something that becomes routine. Every day you wonder to yourself – "What is available in the stores

today?" The supply chain for Cubans is something they can never take for granted. Before this crisis hit our continent, Cuban doctors were short of masks, gloves, medicines and sutures. Doctors we know of told us they were doing only emergency surgeries.

3. Something the Cubans knew all along - the fragility of the economy that we take for granted has suddenly become obvious. So much of our wealth has been built on non-essential items. This reminds me of the words of our Lord Jesus who exhorted us to ensure that our house is not built on sand, but on rock – the Rock being the Lord Jesus Christ.



4. The sovereignty of God is evident. We know the theory. Now we need to put our belief into practice. Are we acting as if God is sovereign? Or are we frantic, like the rest of the world? The command to "be anxious for nothing.." is meant for exactly this kind of circumstance.

But the salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; He is their strength in the time of trouble. Ps 37:39

We had planned 2 trips to Cuba – one in March and one in April. Then we learned that the authorities were insisting that we come only if all of our team have religious visas. Getting a religious visa takes 90 days, and we were already past that deadline. Thus we had to cancel those trips, and had tentatively planned to reschedule for June. That was only a few weeks ago, and my how the world has changed since then! Now we plan to focus on our November 4-11 trip, and trust that things will be better then.

We have some wonderful news to share with you. Our shipping container has arrived in Cuba, and has been received by our friends there. Thank you all for those who helped! And a special word of thanks to the people of Parkway Bible Church who stored that container and patiently waited for permission for us to ship! God is good and has answered the many prayers that went up over this.



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During these days, let's make sure our lamps are burning brightly, and remember this good word:

"10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God." 2 Cor 9:10-11

May God bless you all with a rich harvest of righteousness.

Werner Peters
Executive Director
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Please send your support for Calvary Road's mission to Cuba to:

Calvary Road Gospel Association
P.O. Box 50209
Sunnybrook P.O.
Toronto, ON M4G 0B5

Or

Give online at:
CalvaryRoad.ca

A Note from the Treasurer



As I sit in my office and type this letter as the Treasurer of Calvary Road, the world is in the midst of fighting a global pandemic. The market is now in bear territory, store shelves are beginning to empty, and everyday life is disrupted and uncertain. Consumer spending will decline and inevitably jobs will be lost. In these circumstances, our Lord presses upon me the urgency to rely on His Word, and to continue to share the Gospel to those whom He puts in our lives. Fellow

Christians, we can trust that God is using this time of crisis for His good will so let us pray for more people to be saved in this period of uncertainty and fear.

If you see that God is blessing you abundantly, please do continue to pray for the opportunity to generously give to the churches in Cuba. Please remember the missionaries who are enduring hardships to reach the unreachable, the pastors who minister to their congregations with limited supply, and the needs of our brothers and sisters, especially those who lost their homes to natural disasters. Thank you for your continued prayers and partnership.

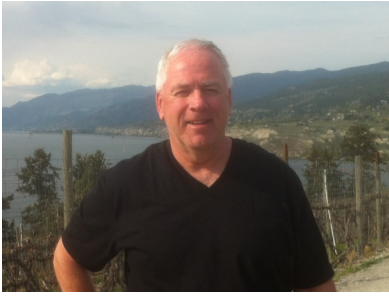
Austin D. So
Treasurer



Container Arriving in Cuba!



A Note from the President



Since early March, life has changed for us in Canada. While we want to acknowledge one of the defining periods of our society - yes, it's certainly up there with 9-11 - we don't want to be defined by it, but rather, think of ways to encourage and help others - here at home. And so we encourage you to responsibly seize the opportunities that our Lord puts in front of you to be a light in your neighbourhood, for His glory.

but especially for your prayers that I am convinced were needed to get that container moving and released to our Cuban partners so quickly upon arrival. And a huge thank you to Gerry Rupke, our Calvary Road Leadership Team member who shepherded this container project from start to finish - again. God is so good, all the time, and this is ALL for His glory!

Lastly, our next planned Vision Trip to Cuba will be Nov 4-11, and we invite all those who wish to encourage our Cuban brothers and sisters, and see the results of your ministry - and they are many - to join with us. See Vision Trip info notice for details.

Thank you again to all our partners in this ministry; it is a true honour to be so clearly used as a channel of blessing to God's children in Cuba - in this ministry we share together. The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine on you, and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace!

Warmly, in Christ our Lord,
Dave Ross



Work has resumed again in our Core Homes project, after having been delayed by materials shortages and other challenges. Please continue to pray for the success of this project - work is proceeding on a Cuban pace, not a North American pace, and so we need to patiently look to our God to enable this important work to continue steadily.



Meantime, as Pastor Werner has so aptly reminded us, this ministry continues with our brothers and sisters in Cuba. Praise the Lord! our container finally landed in Cuba and the contents - all in excellent condition despite the lengthy storage wait - has been distributed to those areas of ministry so desperate for them (see photos). Thank you so very much for your support in this project,

Our Cuban payroll continues to grow nicely each year - we don't take pleasure that so many pastors and missionaries have such little income; rather we thank our God that He has allowed us to bless Cuban pastor families in such a fundamental way. Thank you so much for your faithful support of these beautiful brothers and sisters.



Container Being Unloaded

Our next major, and ongoing area of ministry is underway, with the commissioning of the fabrication of the steel forms for our water filter manufacturing and distribution project. God willing, we hope to see our new ministry in operation during our Fall trip.





A Cuba Reflection



Five years ago, I assumed the pastorate of the Bethany Baptist Church, based in Dos Palmas, a small town in La Sierra Maestra. Together with my wife and two children we live in the service of God. Our Church serves God with enthusiasm, united in the vision of planting churches in the 18 unreached villages that are in intricate areas of the mountains.

Since we arrived, the church and our family joined in prayer asking God for a sponsor, someone to love God and his work in this place and help us.

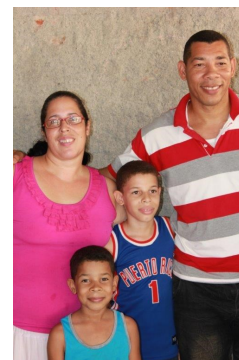
Then God sent Calvary Road, a team that surprised us with their joy, their love and organization. The congregation burst into praise when the first offering arrived and we placed it in the hands of the church treasurer. Thanks to Calvary Road we have two outdoor bathrooms, one for women and one for men. In addition, we were able to build a large capacity cistern that stores water for us and to help the neighbors in times of drought.

And what about our family? We were moved to see God's care for us through you. We do not ask God for us, however, on every trip on Calvary Road we have received much needed items! Every time we open the gifts, we find just what we need, things difficult to find in Cuba, or that are very expensive. Our old gas cooker was broken, now we have a new and high quality one. Our children finished the previous school term with only one pair of shoes each, and received in October some shoes that made them jump with joy. For my missionary work I have a bicycle. In these times of such a shortage of necessities in Cuba, we look at the provisions we still have and thank God so much for being able to even share with other brothers.

God is faithful. He promised to provide us with what is necessary and has not failed. And to those who let themselves be used by him to help others; God blesses them abundantly. Glory to Him!

Thank you very much, Calvary Road, for your help and your love. We wish many blessings from above. Happy Easter!

Pastor Garbey Dio Sleivis & Luz



**Calvary Road Gospel Association
Vision/Ministry Trips**

November 4 - 11, 2020

Limited Seats Available!

Firm Commitment needed by JUNE 30

Please contact Walt Noordam
by email for more information:
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