



CRGA Newsletter

December | 2022 |

Upcoming Vision Trips

January 16 - 23, 2023 - Costa Rica - FULL

March 3 - 10, 2023 - Cuba - FULL

October 13 - 20, 2023 - Cuba
Register by June 30 by contacting
Dave Ross - dhnbbbr@gmail.com

January 19 - 26, 2024 - Cuba
Register by August 15 by contacting
Amy Hayden - amyhayden07@gmail.com

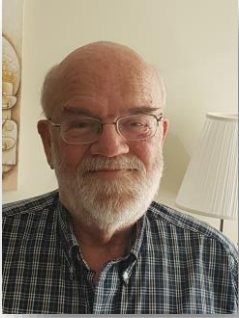
March 8 - 16, 2024 - Cuba
Register by November 30 by contacting
Walt Noordam - waltnoordam@outlook.com



Pastor Josue landed in Edmonton, Alberta in November and was able to enjoy Canada's snow - as well as the -20° C weather for the first time in his life!

Christmas in Cuba

-Pastor Werner Peters



Several years ago, my wife Carole took it upon herself to travel to Cuba on her own. She specializes in the art of pyrography* and had a burden to teach her art in Cuba to artistic individuals who might benefit from a new skill. Cuba was just beginning

to open to individually owned enterprises.

She decided to go over the Christmas holidays and thus got to experience how Cuban Christians celebrate Christmas. Armed with suitcases with wrapped gifts for her Cuban friends she arrived at her friend's place, our former interpreter, Neida.

The other day I asked Carole, "What do you remember the most about that Christmas in Cuba?" Her response? "The joyful celebration of the church! It was such an honor to share in the excitement on Christmas Day as the children's choir sang, along with other special music and readings of all kinds. After the service everyone fellowshiped with a piece of cake. Literally. Then, when we returned home, I shared with my host family the gifts I had brought. It was a lot of fun, and they were so grateful, and it felt good to be the "bearer of gifts" ...but somehow, I was sorry to have introduced them to our materialistic custom of gift giving on Christmas Day."

This led me to wonder. What would the celebration of Christmas be like for us with no gifts under the tree? In fact, no tree at all? Would our joy at the coming of Immanuel be muted? Would the family time and the banqueting be less enjoyable? Can the fact that God became one of us cause us so much joy and elation that gifts and decor and food become incidental?

There are two modern choruses that haunt me. We sing the words, "Christ is enough for me" and we sing "You're all I've Ever Needed". I realize that we often sing the words to a worship song to express an ideal that we aspire to. But these words arouse my conscience more than the others, because we certainly don't live as if Jesus Christ is all we need.

Tragically in our culture and throughout the world there are multitudes whose Christmas celebrations are devoid of Christ. Gifts and celebration are present, but they know not what they celebrate. So, there is the contrast. There are those who have nothing but Christ, and He is enough.

This is what became so clear to my wife during that Cuban Christmas. Our Cuban brothers and sisters know how to joyfully celebrate the coming of Jesus without the tinsel, the ornaments or the gifts. This year, can we do likewise? Not that the ornaments and gifts are wrong - of course not. But can we rejoice MORE at the thought of the incarnation than anything else this Christmas? May He truly be all that we need this year and the years ahead.

This Christmas, if you are so led, would you care to send a gift to help support a Cuban pastor, missionary or even a project? For example, you will get to hear more about our water filter project that we are starting up on a broad scale.

We wish you a joy filled and Christ-centered celebration of Christmas this year and in the coming new year.

*Pyrography is the art of using a woodburning pen to engrave on wood or other media.



Joy to the World, the Lord has come



A Note from the President

~Dave Ross

Our Calvary Road supporters know that I like to keep the big picture in mind when it comes to our shared ministry work in Cuba. With our most recent vision team trip to



Cuba in October, I am overwhelmed to update you in this regard. Economically, things have never been worse in Cuba, even during the “special period” of the 1990s. Cuba now has the 3rd highest rate of inflation in the world; approximately 6,900% since currency unification which began January 1, 2021; government “MLC” stores are now empty most of the time; for 3 years, no clothing or shoes have been seen in Cuban stores; toiletries are now found only in the black market; hospitals have no supplies; patients need to take their own supplies and syringes, and food is expensive and scarce. Electricity blackouts happen every day; the power is on every day everywhere for 4 hours at a time, and depending upon how important the area is, it is then off anywhere from 6 hours to 8 hours to 10 hours at a time. This is life in Cuba now. But at the resort where we started and ended our trip, the electricity is on 24/7 and food was plentiful. This too is the reality of Cuba.

In the midst of all this scarcity and hardship, I am overjoyed to inform you that the church in Cuba, since Covid-19, and specifically our partners in the Eastern Baptist Convention, has been the 3rd fastest growing evangelical denomination in the WORLD. In the WORLD! Five years ago, the CBCOr had approximately 400 churches; today they have more than 700 churches and another 17 will be added by the end of February. CBCOr also has about 700 mission stations, and approximately 500 of those will soon qualify to become churches. Seminary students in the Western Baptist Convention are now attending

the CBCOr seminaries to take specific courses. The fields truly are white unto harvest, and I am overwhelmed with joy and gratefulness to God that He would honour us by allowing us to have a small part in serving Him in such an amazing harvest for His Kingdom. So, the Leadership Team of Calvary Road Gospel Association thanks you most humbly and sincerely for your continued support of this little ministry that God is using to support His church in Cuba. Who among us could have ever known that our faithfulness in such a small ministry could be used by God to help achieve such astounding growth for His kingdom?

I am also pleased to confirm to you that God has been going before us long before we were aware. In 2019 we had the pleasure and honour of having Tom Hunt of One-22 Ministries join us for our trip to Cuba. One-22 also does some great work in eastern Cuba, and we agreed at the time with Tom that we would work closely together in both the pastor support and water filter manufacturing areas. We didn't know at the time, but God knew, that He would be calling Tom to heaven in December 2021. This was a tremendous shock to all of us. But that initial relationship with Tom has now come full circle in a partnership with the One-22 ministry. Calvary Road will be taking the lead on working with the expanded ministry in Cuba, and One-22 will lead the continuing work in Costa Rica. Both ministries will support the other's leadership areas. This opens up new opportunities for our Calvary Road supporters, especially for those who like to “get their hands dirty” on a mission trip, as the work in Costa Rica involves church and pastor house building programs. Two members of our Calvary Road leadership team will be traveling with One-22 to Costa Rica in January to learn more about this expanded opportunity in ministry.

In the midst of all this, Calvary Road's primary focus remains to grow our support of Cuban pastors and missionaries. As you support a Cuban pastor and his family, that enables him to focus his full-time

~continued on page 4



A Note from the President continued ~

energy on reaching his community and teaching believers to grow in maturity. One of our newest pastors we are supporting is Pastor Orlenis Games in the little village of Guaibono (pronounced Gwy-bon-O) in the mountains of Guantanamo province.



Pastor Orlenis and his wife Arisbeles have been serving in this church for 7 years. The church has over 200 attending weekly, 5 mission stations and they baptize on average 13 people every year. This was our first time to meet Pastor Orlenis, and God miraculously provided for us. The night before we were to arrive, Pastor Orlenis was out walking his village and reminding God that he had nothing to feed the Canadians who were coming the next day (food is exceptionally scarce, and expensive, everywhere. We always pay for our food, but the local church has to find and prepare the food for us). As he walked, he happened to spot a farmer on the other side of a fence. He went over, struck up a conversation, and the farmer stated that if the Pastor would come at 4am the next morning, he would kill his pig, and then Pastor Orlenis could buy one-quarter. Because Pastor Orlenis did exactly that, God supplied and hands down, that was the best pork we had the entire trip. We are so unworthy of the honour these people and our God shower on us; yet God does this anyway - on every trip. All glory to God alone!

Pastor Profile: Yeniel Brunet ~

Yeniel Brunet is married to Yuvania Savala and they reside in Sagua, a town in the province of Holguin. They have 2 children, Delyes who is 17 and Daniel who is 14.

Yeniel was not brought up in the church and at the age of 19 he was introduced to the gospel by attending a service with his brother, and a short time later he accepted Christ.

Yeniel is president in his area of local churches and oversees 70 churches. He has served in his current congregation for 11 years and he has been a pastor for 13. He has been involved in ministry for 22 years. This church is a church plant. There are approximately 50 - 60 people attending the services with a membership of 40.

There was a decrepit building on the property that he and his family lived in while the church and their new home was being built. There was no concrete or windows in this home but since our last visit concrete has been provided and put in their home.



Memories of a Vision Trip

~Aline Gowlett

“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done.”

~ Proverbs 19:17

Recently I had the privilege of being part of a ‘Vision Trip’ to Cuba with Calvary Road Gospel Missions. This Canadian missionary organization provides support to the evangelical church in Cuba to help meet basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, shoes, medical supplies, and a modest monthly financial support to some of the pastors, especially those serving in rural areas.

Each of us in the group carried an extra suitcase with 50 lbs of clothing, shoes, medical supplies, care packages for new Moms, reading glasses, batteries and more.

The following are only a couple of the many highlights from what was an exciting, heartwarming, learning, eye opening adventure.

The early Sunday morning three-hour van ride was rewarded with a warm welcome at the church served by our host pastor. Good Cuban coffee and delicious snacks were served. But it was what happened next that brought me to tears.

We were ushered into the church where the service was in progress. Nine young people, some with musical instruments, others with their voices, were leading the congregation in worshipful hymns and songs. Reverence, honour and adoration for their Saviour was evident. This same well prepared worship team returned to open the evening service with more singing and scripture reading. What a testimony.

A second highlight was on Tuesday when 40 Cuban pastors and missionaries gathered. Following their meeting the Canadians had an opportunity to give each participant a “gift bag” with items brought from

Canada. Shoes were laid out at the front of the room where everyone selected one pair. It was humbling to see the appreciation on their faces. What a joy-filled group of people.

My conclusion is that the Body of Christ is alive and growing in Cuba. The people I met may be poor materially, but they are rich spiritually. Our Cuban brothers and sisters in Christ are putting their trust and their faith in the God of the Bible to meet their needs. And they are so grateful for the love of their brothers and sisters in Christ.

I came home humbled, blessed and challenged.



Ways You Can Support CRGA

Pray for our pastors

Sponsor a pastor and his family

For just \$70 per month, or \$840 per year, you can sponsor a pastor and his family. This provides them with much needed money for groceries, clothing and basic necessities.

Join us on one of our upcoming Vision Trips!

Vision trip cost is \$1,600; this includes airfare from Pearson Toronto and accommodations, food and local travel in Cuba. We have limited capacity for our Vision Trips; first to sign up and pay the \$1,000 deposit are the first to be confirmed for the VT team. Come join us and experience the real Cuba and a beautiful change in your heart and life - blessings are guaranteed!



Pastor Josue's Visit to Canada

We were excited to welcome Pastor Josue to Canada in November.



In Edmonton Pastor Josue attended business meetings with CCCOWE (Canadian Chinese Christian Organization of World Evangelism).

In Toronto he preached at the Chinese Gospel Church in Toronto, visited with Parkway Bible Church and other supporters.

Then in Sarnia he visited Temple Baptist Church as well as People's Church in nearby Wyoming, along with other supporters in the Sarnia area.



Many thanks to our translator, Carlos Cortez and his wife, Marielos, for giving of their time during Pastor Josue's visit.



Ways to Give

Send a cheque to:

Calvary Road Gospel Association
PO Box 571
Moncton, NB E1C 8L9

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>

Donations by mail and post-marked on December 31, 2022, or earlier will be receipted for 2022. Donation receipts will be issued end of January 2023.

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