

CRGA Newsletter

September | 2022 |

March 2023 Vision Trip

Our spring vision trip is slated for March 3 to 10, 2023. Limited openings are available.

The cost of trip will be \$1,600.

If interested, please contact Walt Noordam at waltnoordam@outlook.com by November 15, 2022 as we need to apply for religious visas. Passport information and deposit of 50% required.

Inside This Issue

PG. 2

Thoughts from our Executive Director, Werner Peters

PG. 3

A Note from the President ~ Dave Ross

PG. 4

Meet our Pastors
Prayer Request

Thoughts from our Executive Director, Werner Peters



29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake. (Php 1:29, NKJV)

Who likes to talk about suffering? It is not a very popular topic. That's very understandable in our First World culture.

I am not talking about the suffering that all humanity experiences. Life is variously challenging for everyone.

I am referring to the difficult challenges that we face as Christians. The other day I gave someone a ride in my car. We shared the usual banter i.e. - "where are you from, what do you do for a living," etc. He learned I was a pastor and very bluntly said, "I hate all priests and pastors." I said enough to de-escalate the situation and dropped him off but was reminded of Jesus' words. "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil on account of the Son of Man" (Luke 6:22).

In our culture most of us have forgotten that suffering deprivation of any kind for the sake of Christ is a core aspect of discipleship. Our Cuban brothers and sisters have not forgotten this. I believe this is the secret to understanding their joy in the Lord and their continued church growth.

We often marvel at how Cuban Christians can be so joyful when times get tough. Whether it is political oppression, scarcity of food or destructive hurricanes, Christians there stand out because of their joy, generosity, and love for their neighbour.

Until recently, the 1990's have been viewed as the most difficult period since the Revolution in 1959. The collapse of the Soviet Union had a devastating impact on Cuba because the flow of subsidies and imports was halted.

We are being told now that the last 2-3 years have been even more difficult. These hardships are physical. Yet despite of the difficulties, perhaps even because of them, the church flourishes. Pastor Josue informed us that in the Eastern provinces alone there are roughly 650 churches and in addition to that there are 600 mission stations that are ready to become official churches in this next year! Why is the church growing at this pace?

After more than a decade of getting to know the Cuban church, here is my answer.

1. **Discipleship** - The Cuban churches have a strong discipleship ministry. As soon as a person becomes a professing Christian, they are enrolled into a discipleship class. The same curriculum is followed in every church.
2. **Hope** - There is little hope for the future for most Cubans. And as Jesus Christ is held up as the only hope, people are attracted to Him. He is a very attractive Saviour in a hopeless world
3. **Suffering** - Christians there know how to suffer. They take the invitation to follow Jesus very seriously.

"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

Oh, that we would learn what this truly means!

Please continue in prayer for the country of Cuba and for its Pastors. If you want more information about supporting a pastor financially, please let us know. We are happy to help you.



A Note from the President

-Dave Ross

Greetings to all our supporters, and I pray that your summer has gone as well as possible for you and your family. As regular readers of this column know, I frequently take a macro view of this ministry to Cubans that we share together. Frankly, I am more than humbled by the fact that God is using (and so effectively) this little ministry of Calvary Road. This month I want to share two main themes, and they are connected: 1) God continues to connect us in Calvary Road to other Canadian ministries also working in Cuba and 2) the situation and needs in Cuba continue to worsen month by month.

Over the past few years, with no design of our own, God has seen fit to introduce Calvary Road to 5 different Canadian ministries doing work in Cuba. It is going to be really interesting to see how this all works out, but your Calvary Road leadership team is open to whatever our Lord has in mind for us. It seems clear to me that with the ongoing embargo by the United States against Cuba (for approximately 30 years now), Canada is the primary nation our God is using to care for His children in Cuba. May we seize this opportunity and do His work His way for His people.

Of course, the overall economic situation in Cuba continues to deteriorate month by month. And, the embargo is all about politics, as it is the US Government's way of "encouraging" regime change in Communist Cuba. It won't come as news to any reader that the Cuban people are paying the entire cost of this epic battle. After the Jan 1, 2021, currency unification by the Cuban government, a Cuban peso was officially worth about 4 Canadian cents. Earlier this summer, the Cuban government revalued its peso again and now a Cuban peso is worth about 1.5 cents. You don't have to be an economist to know that this change was done to reflect what the economic reality is in Cuba, nor do you have to be an economist to realize that this

means that your Canadian dollars gift to our dear brothers and sisters in Christ in Cuba (through churches, pastors and other programs we run there) now are officially 3 times more important and effective than they were previously. (If you think inflation is bad here in Canada, reread the previous 3 sentences and be thankful!)

So, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for your faithful and generous support of the Calvary Road ministry to Cuba. I often make this important reminder: Calvary Road has no one on its Canadian payroll, so virtually every dollar you give through Calvary Road makes its way to Cuba. And our objective is to grow our Cuban payroll, so that faithful pastors and missionaries there, who live in conditions most of you could hardly believe unless you see it with your own eyes, can have sufficient resources to feed their families to the standard of most Cuban families. I assure you - this is nowhere near the standard at which we live. But, if you are able to visit the real Cuba with us sometime (we would love to have you join us on one of our Vision Trips), you will also see with your own eyes how humble and thankful the Cuban people are for your help, and for God's love and care for them. May God continue to find us faithful in this ministry to His children there that He has entrusted to us.



Meet our Pastors

Pastor Dany Malina

Pastor Dany has been at his church for 12 years where his wife is active in ministry as well. They have 53 members and approximately 75 attendees. This church has grown from 7 people to its current numbers through small group ministries.

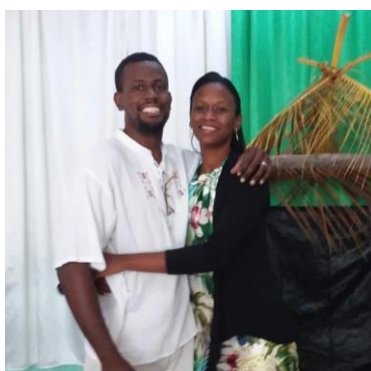


Pastor Dany was a missionary for 10 years prior to attending seminary, which he attended after the restrictions on men being refused entry based on previous divorce was lifted. Pastor Dany first came to church himself to look for healing as a couple of unfortunate accidents caused one of his legs to be shorter than the other. When the altar call was made, he felt God's calling, and the rest as they say is history.

Pastor Dany has 2 children from his first marriage and 3 from his second. They are all walking with God.

Pastor Alain Marzo

Pastor Alain grew up in a Christian home and accepted Christ at 11 years old. He first felt God calling him into the ministry while he was in the army.



Pastor Alain is 31 years old, newly married to his wife Miriannis, and they have a baby on the way! He has been at his church that he planted for 5 years, where he has 45 members and approximately 75 attendees. They are actively holding regular baptisms.

Prayer Request



~Our Core Home project is at a standstill~ Building materials such as rebar and concrete are not available. Please pray that the production factory for concrete will be up and running soon.



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

