

CRGA Newsletter

September | 2023 |

Fill the Sea Container!

Praise the Lord! A dear Christian brother has gifted us with a 40' sea container, so now we want to do our best to fill it with needed food and other items for the people and churches of eastern Cuba.

Would you help us to do just that, so we can show our love and care for God's children in Cuba? Please designate your gift for "Container" and we will ensure that your support is used for this special blessing.



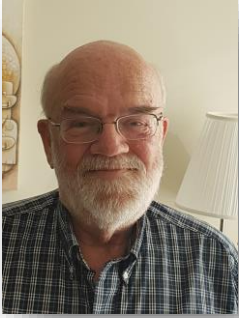
Inside this Issue

This issue is dedicated to the ever-increasing needs of our brothers and sisters in Cuba.

Please read the letters from Werner Peters, Dave Ross and Pastor Josue with open hearts to see how you can support those in Cuba.

The Needs in Cuba

-Pastor Werner Peters



Being raised in a Christian home, I knew the gospel. I had memorized all those verses that told us that we are saved by grace. We are not saved by accumulating merit badges for our works. In fact, we were so focused on being saved by grace

through faith and not of works that somewhere along the way I think an entire generation has lost the powerful significance of works.

Recently I preached my way through the seven letters from Jesus Himself to seven churches in Asia Minor. Each letter has a diagnostic section. And each of those sections begins with the words, "I know your works." Do you suppose that because works are mentioned first, works might be a priority in the mind of God?

Secondly the Word of God tells us frequently that we (yes, we Christians) will "appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil" (2 Cor 5:2). The word for evil can also mean 'worthless'. How many of our activities and deeds are worthless?

I have known too many Christians who feel that because they remember a time that they accepted Christ as their personal Saviour, everything is settled. Yet their lives are in disarray and there seems to be no sign of spiritual life.

It is absolutely true that we are saved by grace through faith, but the Bible also teaches us that the works that (ought to) follow are evidence of that faith. Let us put works back to where it rightfully belongs in the order of importance. James tells us

faith without works is dead. An authentic faith will have positive and gracious consequences in the lives of others.

I joined Calvary Road for this very reason. I wanted to make an impactful difference. I cannot change the world; that's not my calling. But I can have an impact on the life of a Cuban pastor, who in turn has an impact on his church, which in turn has an impact on its community. And believe me, that is what is happening in Cuba.

We are overwhelmed by the needs that exist there. Friends, brothers and sisters in Christ, you can make a difference! The reason the Lord gives us more than we need is so that we can help those who have less than they need. Let us begin to correct this imbalance between faith and works. Let's roll up our sleeves and make a difference for the glory of God!

Please read our other contributors to this newsletter to discover specifically what the needs are in Cuba.

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.

Help us fill the container destined for Cuba.
Please mark your donation as "Container"

Join us on one of our upcoming Vision Trips!

Seats are available for our February 16-23* trip
*Dates are tentative at this time
- approximate cost is \$1800.*



A Note from the President

~Dave Ross



The social and economic news out of Cuba is rarely positive and encouraging, and in fact, as we close in on 20 years of serving there, it sadly seems that the country

lurches from one crisis to the next year after year. But I continuously remind myself that God is in control, and He uses the times in which we all live for His purposes. Specifically, regarding Cuba, I continue to marvel at the calling that God has placed on Calvary Road - this tiny Canadian ministry that God is using to support His plans for His people in Cuba. And so, I am blessed beyond measure to share with you that the one area where the news out of Cuba is nearly always positive and encouraging is regarding the growth of God's kingdom there. As I have shared previously, we are overwhelmed to be working with you in Cuba to support the third fastest growing evangelical church in the world. I am sure that you feel as do I that we are unworthy of such a high calling and honour, but since we are called to this (supporting Cuban pastors) as our number 1 priority in Calvary Road, let us continue to be found faithful in this great privilege and responsibility.

I know that sponsoring a Cuban Pastor or missionary and their family each month may not appear very "exciting" but in this world it appears that there is no possible greater return on our investment, for we are using the wealth of this world to send ahead riches in heaven. And despite the other "humanitarian" projects we have in Cuba over the past 10 years, the only one we were able to maintain momentum on during the past 3 years of the Covid crisis was this: supporting Cuban pastors and missionaries. While our other projects are now slowly resuming (concrete is again being manufactured and sold in Cuba, albeit at much higher prices), our #1

priority will remain growing our Cuban payroll of pastors and missionaries, very humble and faithful servants of the most high God who are the workers reaping the harvest from the fields that are so ripe there.

We are so excited to be resuming our fall and winter vision team trips to Cuba where we will update on the work, meet, encourage and bless many more of the pastors we and you are supporting and then be able to share with you in our upcoming newsletters fresh updates on all that God continues to do there through our shared ministry.

On behalf of the Calvary Road leadership team, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for entrusting us to deliver to Cuba for God's work all that you have entrusted to us. It is our high honour and privilege to be fellow labourers with you in this most important area of ministry. May God find us faithful, as this is ALL for Jesus. Most Gratefully!

A Note from Pastor Josue

God bless all of you who are part of the CRGA team and who are aware of what God is doing through this ministry.



Ministries like this make a big difference in Cuba at times like the ones we live in today. The scarcity of all kinds of resources (medicine, food, clothing, personal hygiene items and others), together with the economic crisis that the country is experiencing like never before, make any help extremely valuable and significant for families. This scarcity was also influenced by the intense rains that affected many parts of our Geography with floods. All this means that any help, whether brought personally or sent in containers at this time, is like (Bread from heaven). We thank all those who have their hearts set on our beloved Country. God bless you abundantly. ~ Pastor Josue



Pastor Profile: Paster Yaniel Brunet

This month we would like to introduce you to Pastor Yaniel Brunet, along with his wife, Yudaia, and their two teenage children. Pastor Yaniel is the pastor of the 36-member Alto Refugio Church in El Mangueto. He is also the President of the Baptist churches in the Holguin district. This couple has been very dedicated to the Lord's work in this area and are very involved in the church and community.

They began their ministry by opening up their home and having services in their kitchen, with many sitting on the floor. God has since blessed them with the construction of a new home and church which is almost complete.

Yudaia supports her husband's ministry while also leading the women's ministry in the district, which includes 12 churches. When Yudaia was unable to carry on with her responsibilities due to surgery, Yaniel filled in to help keep this ministry going. They truly are each other's helpmeets.



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>



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



Photographer - Pastor James Bekker