

# Newsletter

December | 2024 |

## *Eastern Baptist Conference*

In early December the Eastern Baptist Conference, in conjunction with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association held a revival meeting with 21,000 Cubans in attendance over two meetings. 8,000 people gave their hearts to Christ. Praise the Lord for the work that continues in Cuba! God knows what He is doing, and the spiritual fields are so ripe unto harvest in Cuba these days. Thank you for your partnership with Calvary Road as we work together to bring God's desires for His people there.

## *A Christmas Greeting*

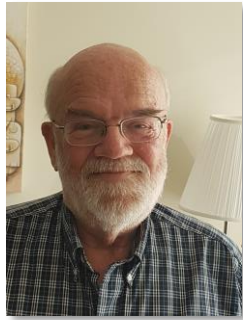
In this Christmas season, we give thanks - first and always to God, who gave us His only begotten Son to ransom and reconcile us to Him. And in Calvary Road, we give thanks to God for you, our partners, who support this ministry in prayer and in giving. The entire Calvary Road leadership team prays a Christmas blessing on you and your loved ones. May we all continue to seek Him who first loved us and serve Him with joy and faithfulness in 2025 and beyond!



## Our Eyes are Upon You

~ Pastor Werner Peters, Executive Director

Perhaps you have heard of King Jehoshaphat. He was Judah's fourth King after the twelve tribes divided into the northern and southern kingdoms. His life kind of reminds me of the struggle that many of us as Christians experience. His life could be compared to an exciting roller coaster ride.



He started out well, and his early years on the throne were so exemplary that the nations round about Judah dared not attack him. The chronicler put it this way in 2 Chron 17:3-5. "The Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the earlier ways of his father David. He did not seek the Baals but sought the God of his father and walked in his commandments, and not according to the practices of Israel. Therefore, the Lord established the kingdom in his hand."

He sent Bible teachers throughout the land to see to it that his people were established in the ways of the Lord. Then comes a puzzling turning point. Through the marriage of his son to a daughter of Jezebel and Ahab, he allies himself with the Northern Kingdom – a disastrous move.

That's a story that you need to read for yourself – it's quite the dramatic story with one faithful prophet who stands against Ahab's 400 prophets. But if you fast forward in the narrative, we find King Jehoshaphat at home and being threatened by hostile armies.

What does Jehoshaphat do? He prays, and what a prayer it is. I want to simply focus on the last part of his prayer. Please reflect on chapter 20:12. "...we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."

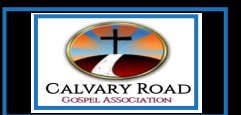
Have you ever felt that way? If you are human, you have felt this way. A lot. It often feels like the circumstances of life conspire against you. The lesson is (of course) that God ALWAYS knows what to do. But an even bigger lesson is this. The key verse of 2 Chronicles is in 7:14. "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

I am certain that the story of Jehoshaphat is included to show us that this is exactly what he did. He humbled himself. He sought the Lord's face, even after some major failures.

In Cuba, disastrous circumstances seemed to have piled on one after another. Hurricanes, earthquakes, food shortages. What must the Cuban Christian be going through? They too look up and say "Lord, we don't know what to do, but our eyes are upon you."

And as we, the leaders of Calvary Road hear of these disasters, we are tempted to throw up our hands and give up. But instead, like Moses, we hold up our hands in prayer, and repeat these same words – "Lord, we do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you."

May God provide for the Cuban Church as they continue in this fight, but even more, may God grant us as believers in a land of plenty, the revival that we so desperately need.



## A Note from the President

~ Dave Ross

Our Vision Team trip to Cuba in October was a great blessing to our Cuban brothers and sisters, and to our Canadian team



members. These trips are ALWAYS a great blessing, and if you have never been on one with us, then we enthusiastically invite you to do so. And the fact is that we need more people to join us on our Vision Team trips to enable us to carry out the work of this ministry. Calvary Road Vision Team trips are about as gentle a mission trip as one can make. We don't build things, or slog miles through jungles; we simply visit with Cuban pastors and churches, hear their stories and modestly bless them with needed supplies. We stay in reasonably nice accommodations (by Cuban standards they are very nice) and we now travel in an air-conditioned van! To experience worship in a foreign language and culture with fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord is to have a foretaste of heaven, and your heart will be forever impacted in a wonderful way. Watch for our upcoming Vision Trip calendar in our Spring 2025 newsletter.

The short story is that the economic situation in Cuba continues to deteriorate with every trip we take. Life just gets harder and harder for Cubans. But the wonderful news is that in all these hardships, the gospel of Jesus Christ radiates HOPE for the Cuban people, not just for heaven, but also for here and now. The church in Cuba is the 3rd fastest growing evangelical church in the world, and it is a gigantic honour to partner with you in God's work there. Clearly, we have been brought together and used by God at this time to provide support and encouragement to our fellow believers there; a special people whom He clearly loves dearly.

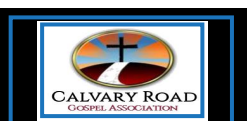
From October 15-22 we visited in all the areas that were hardest hit by Hurricane Oscar on Oct 20th. We did cut

our travels one day short so we could be safely back in our resort awaiting our return to Canada, but our hearts remain tender for those whom we visited and whose communities were greatly impacted. A short update: although our core homes project has been greatly slowed by continuing lack of cement and steel rebar, one of our core homes that is currently about 70% complete served as a literal shelter in the storm for 5 families who took refuge there during the hurricane (see the photo of this home on the previous page). Praise God that little is still much in His hands.

Our recent food container has finally landed in the region we sent it; pray that it will soon be released to our leadership there so that many may benefit from it. And Thank You for your generous response to the special appeal we made for hurricane relief after we returned from our trip. Pastor Josue has asked if we could send another container of food, this time of rice and beans, the essential components of the Cuban diet. We are presently gathering the information we need to be able to respond to this urgent request.

Despite the unrelenting dire straits of life in Cuba, the biggest thing by far for us as a ministry is that the gospel of Jesus Christ is bearing great fruit there. God is simply building His church with many Cubans, for which we praise Him, and thank Him for inviting us into His work there. More people have recently responded to our request for monthly pastoral sponsorship, for which we thank God. We continue to add to our list of sponsored pastors, adding 5 more on this past trip. And we visited with some pastors in their churches who haven't been visited by us for several years, and from everyone we heard beautiful stories of God at work in them, one more of whom you will read about in this newsletter.

So, thank you so very much for your continued support of God's work in Cuba through Calvary Road. Surely, He has appointed us for such a time as this to help build and encourage His church. May God alone receive all the glory!



## Pastor Profile – Pastor Salvador Ortiz Moreira & his wife Maria Peres Peres

~ The Splendor Church, Limones (The Lemon Groves),  
Maisi Point

Pastor Salvador's father was an alcoholic, and his mother had a Catholic and Santeria background, although she never attended church. (Note: Santeria is almost ubiquitous throughout Cuba. It is an occult religion that was deceptively blended into Catholicism during colonial times so that the native population could show their Catholic colonists that they were Catholic. Satan's deception and deceit has been around a long time!). Salvador received a Bible when he was 10, and he started reading it at a family service. He read all of Genesis chapter 1 but didn't understand it. When he was 11 his family moved deep into the mountains, where he received a visit from a missionary in the area. That missionary asked Salvador if he wanted to spend eternity in heaven or in hell, and he responded that he didn't want anything to do with the devil. She said that Jesus is the only way, and that day he received Jesus into his heart. Being so far into the mountains, he and his friends had to travel 40 KM on foot to reach the nearest church, and sleep at the church so they could be on time for service in the morning.



At the age of 12 he had to work since his father had gone blind. Salvador was baptized, and at age 16 he met his wife; they married in 1984. Four years later Salvador felt the call of God to become a pastor, and he started to serve in his local church as a part-time missionary while he also farmed. He couldn't attend seminary because he only had an elementary education. Eventually, after

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## Vision Trip – October 2024

~ Brian Perry

There is no substitute for a Vision Trip.

In his exposition of the gospel to the church at Rome, Paul says that “in Christ we, though many, form one body and each member belongs to all the others.”  
(Romans 12:5)

A Vision Trip is, in effect, a family visit to see relatives with whom we work together and to whom we belong forever in Christ.

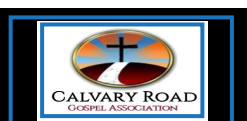
Let me illustrate.

In October we saw Anmis, wife and ministry partner of Pastor Josue, who, by the grace of God and in consequence of her belonging to us all, received life-saving surgery earlier this year. Anmis welcomed and served us with vitality and joy.

We saw the scars of Pastor Iriel, a dear brother who, some years ago, in peril of losing a leg to flesh-eating disease, prayed simply: “With or without a leg, I will keep on serving You.” God graciously allowed then vision team members who belong to Iriel to play their part in the healing of the leg. Iriel continues in faithful — and bipedal — ministry to those yet to belong in the body.

Should you embark on a Vision trip, you will see into the lives of many more like these to whom you belong. Consequently, you may also see deeply into your own heart.

There is no substitute for a Vision Trip. In order to see — really see — you must first go.



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attending a course for youth and serving as a part-time missionary for many years, he was allowed to start seminary where he studied for 5 years before graduating.

The first church that Pastor Salvador started was the mission in Limones in 1990. He stayed there for 9 years, and now, after 25 years of pastoral ministry, he has “come home” to Limones to finish his pastoral career, since the church was without a pastor for a long time. He had support in his other churches along the way but dropped that support to return to Limones. God honored his obedience to the call, and One-22 started sponsoring him, and he remains deeply grateful for their support.

Pastor Salvador stated that God healed him from cancer 27 years ago. People were crying when they heard he had it, but he knew that he was called to pastor, and he couldn't pastor from heaven, so he had faith in God for his healing. He still marvels that God took this farmer with only an elementary education, eventually gave him a seminary education, and a life-fulfilling ministry sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with many (including being able to baptize his mother). Although there have been many troubles and hardships, as he looks back over his life he praises God for His amazing goodness to him. Pastor Salvador and his wife Maria have 3 children and 10 grandchildren. What an honour for us to come alongside this beautiful brother and his wife as they labor to rebuild the church in this area.



## Ways to Give

**Cheques handed to Calvary Road Gospel Association representatives by December 31st will be receipted for the 2024 tax year**

Moncton, NB

David Ross (506-386-4230) & Marguerite Poirier

GTA, ON

Aylmer Ng, Amy Hayden & David Lee

Strathroy, ON

Brian Perry

Sarnia, ON

Walt Noordam (519-464-2041),

Gerry Rupke, James Bekkers

Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Werner Peters (705-825-0556)

### **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>

Charitable giving receipts are usually issued by Calvary Road in January for the immediate past year's giving. 2024 receipts will be mailed by the end of January 2025, or whenever the postal strike ends, whichever is later. Should you wish to receive your 2024 giving receipt by email, please email us at: CalvaryRoadGospelAssociation@gmail.com and we will be pleased to send your receipt to you via email. Thanks for your understanding.

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