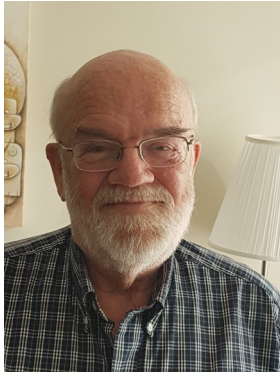


CALVARY ROAD GOSPEL ASSOCIATION

December 2020



CALVARY ROAD
GOSPEL ASSOCIATION



By the time you receive this newsletter in your inbox, you will be hearing Christmas music everywhere. Of course this year our celebrations will be somewhat muted due to the pandemic. How are you, our praying friends and supporters doing these days? I hope you are following hard after our Lord Jesus Christ. He is our only hope during these difficult times.



I would love to leave a devotional thought with you. These thoughts were born out of a sermon I preached in our home church. We live on a border town which means that

Note from the Executive Director

we have folks who are passionately on both sides of the political fence.

"Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous." (1 Pet 3:8 NKJV)

Whether it be politics or mask mandates or lockdowns, the mere mention of these words cause elevated blood pressure. Seldom has the North American church been under such stress. And there are signs of stress fractures everywhere. We MUST take our eyes off of the world systems and fix them on Christ. We MUST remind ourselves that our citizenship is in heaven. We MUST reacquaint ourselves with the rather old fashioned (but nonetheless true) concept that we are exiles here on earth, and that *"...here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come"* (Heb 13:14 NKJV).

May you reflect the character of Christ our Saviour as we continue to navigate the rough waters that are ours.

Please continue to pray for the leaders of our Calvary Road sponsored churches. Pastor

Josue Rodriguez Legra says in a recent What's App comment to me, (with tongue in cheek) "I am half crazy." And he followed it up with his head being full of problems and situations. He superintends over 600 churches and they all have needs. There is no way he can keep up apart from the supernatural empowerment of the Holy Spirit.



A couple of years ago, I met with a pastoral couple in the town of Antilles, a quaint fishing village. Pastor Eliut Lobaina is a hard working man, dedicated to his flock. We began to support them. They had two daughters. About two months ago the younger one, Helen (12 years of age) was admitted to the hospital with an apparent aneurysm. The doctors put her into a chemical coma and she was put on life support. Unfortunately, she passed away a week later. Would

Continued on page 2

Continued from pg. 1



Nathali, Pastor Lobaina, Yahyma, & Helen

you pray for this precious family? As soon as we are allowed back to Cuba, we would dearly like to visit them.

Pray also that Calvary Road will be able to resume with its Vision trips in 2021. We long to be there so badly. Although we are continuing to wire our support to Cuba, it's far better that we are able to see them all in person. May God bless you as you continue to uphold us and our Cuban family in prayer.

In His service,
Werner Peters

werner1950@gmail.com



A Note from the Treasurer



How this year has brought us such uncertainty, anxiety, and turmoil, however, the faithfulness of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ remains, and what great comfort we have in that! As I look towards the upcoming traditional Christmas season, many of us will be missing out on large gatherings with friends and family, singing Christmas carols, and attending Christmas Eve candlelight services. However, even as strong as these traditions are, let us not forget that our faith is grounded in Him, and we are all bonded in fellowship through the Holy Spirit, whether we are near or far.

In this light, I am praying for our Cuban brothers and sisters whom we have not been able to visit in awhile. Though this is the reality, it is through supporters like you that we have been able to love them by sending food and supplies as needed. I am again reminded that nothing belongs to us, but to God, and we at Calvary Road continue to strive to steward his treasury faithfully. It is a blessing as the Treasurer to witness the generosity that pours in week after week!

As the calendar year ends and we enter into "donation rush," would you consider blessing a Cuba pastor, congregant, or other in need through a gift to Calvary Road? Every dollar will be used towards His Kingdom!

Blessings and Grace be with you all,
Austin D. So

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>

All general donations received by Calvary Road are received in January of the following year.



A Note from the President



"Thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphant procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere". And I want each of you to know that "us" surely includes *every one* of the supporters of this tiny ministry that our God is using in a highly effective and efficient way to continue to spread the fragrance of the gospel of Jesus Christ in Cuba. We want you to know that we are very clear regarding our principal role in this ministry; namely to be supporters of those who minister Christ so effectively in their native Cuba.

At Calvary Road, the number one way we support the gospel in Cuba is through sponsoring pastors and missionaries. Generally speaking, the people of Cuba are so poor that they cannot in the least adequately support their pastors or missionaries. Here in Canada, missionaries raise all their support before they head to the field. In Cuba, pastors and missionaries sense the call of God on their lives, and they then go to the churches and villages and depend upon God alone to supply their needs. That is where we come in: we are the hands of God in this case supplying their need. So thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support in this most critical component of this ministry.



But of course, there are other ways we also help to spread the fragrance of the gospel in Cuba. This past summer, a great number of you responded to our appeal to help send

essential food and humanitarian supplies to Cuba. Because of your generosity, we were able to purchase and send nearly two full 40-foot containers of food to Cuba. We partnered with others in the USA who had received special permission to quickly send those goods. To date, in total 7 containers have landed and been distributed, 3 are in port in Jamaica awaiting shipment to eastern Cuba, 2 more containers are on the water, and 3 are being loaded in Texas. So let us pray that the power of God will speed these remaining containers into the hands of the Cuban churches and people before this Christmas. Thank you again for being the hands of God to these precious brothers and sisters.



Arrival of Food for Cuban Families

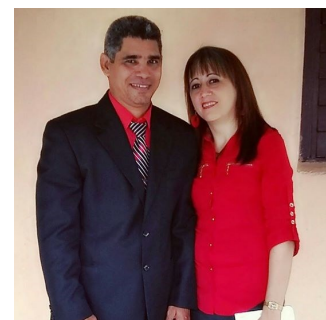
We also thank God for the opportunity we had to slip into the first containers steel and other critical materials that cannot be sourced in Cuba to start up our biosand water filter manufacturing and distribution program. These durable (30-year life), easy to maintain, concrete filters will be distributed 2/3 to unchurched, and 1/3 to church families with small children and the elderly, who are most at risk with the poor water quality throughout Cuba (rainwater cisterns are the primary source of drinking water, and you can imagine what happens in sitting water in a tropical climate). These filters are \$50 each, and we will distribute them for free, so if you are looking for Christmas gifts for the people in your family who "don't need anything", please consider this evangelical outreach program for Cuban families (evangelism teams do the initial maintenance training, and then return annually for inspections and conversations). Alternately, in keeping with our core focus, if you are able to sponsor a pastor or missionary for \$60/month, this is the gift with the greatest direct impact for the Kingdom of God.

On that note, we pray God's richest blessings on you and your family as we again ponder the wonder of God coming to earth in the baby Jesus. We trust that

your celebration will be no less special because of the global pandemic, but that Christ may be pre-eminent in your home and your heart at this special time of the year. Your Calvary Road Leadership Team thanks you again for your partnership with this ministry, and we look forward to a great 2021 together with you - it is indeed ALL for Jesus! Blessings!

Dave Ross

Cuban Missionary Profile



Pastor Orlando Hernandez Gonzales and Yamilla Regalado Marron have been married for 20 years. Pastor Orlando met his wife in a youth fellowship, and their love blossomed. They were married in 2000. Orlando and Yamilla grew up together in the area. He started as a missionary in a small congregation and then a church was established called Saqua de Tanamo Church in the Holguin Province. Orlando studied to be a pastor at the Baptist Theological Seminary and graduated in 2008. The congregation has approximately 140 in attendance with 135 members. They are doing an evangelistic and discipleship outreach regularly and have approximately 100 people attending. The dynamics of the church is mainly young persons. They would love to see more children come. The youth ministry consists of about 50 persons. They have sent out 3 missionaries in the past 4 years. This mission post has 9 cell groups. These cell groups have a total attendance of 70 persons. These missions are presently supported by the Baptist convention. Pastor Orlando gives praise that his wife works along his side and she compliments the ministry. He feels his strengths are in preaching and counselling.



A Cuba Reflection



Life In Cuba Today

Saying Covid without thinking about health professionals and their hard work is nearly impossible. When Cuba registered the first case of COVID-19 in March 2020, a feeling of uncertainty came over the health system workers. Med students (like me) were kinda' chill about it, until we were cited to an urgent meeting where the head of the class informed us that male students must be ready because we might be needed in isolation centers. It shook most of us. Of course, we were "ready" to do it, but it's not an easy thing to process.

Thanks be to God we didn't have to go to isolation centers but since our health system believes in "preventative medicine", our classes were stopped and we were sent door to door, asking for symptoms, checking people's temperatures and asking for people with possible symptoms living in the area. We were given no masks, no gloves, nothing, we were really endangered.

Thanks be to God that a few months earlier, our brother Gerry Rupke gave us some masks and I was able to help some of my classmates and work with that. The thing is that I believe the work we were forced to do was absolutely unnecessary because it exposed us to people that might be diseased and nobody ever admitted to present symptoms, so useless...Around a month ago our country started opening, schools started to work again and we are back at the hospitals; the number of cases are increasing and hospitals are getting full with covid-19 suspicious patients. Even through it all, we believe that God is good and no matter what, His will be done and His children will never be forsaken; that is the only reason why we are still here working for the people, because of God and His kingdom. Thanks for all your prayers, that is the greatest support you can give us.



In the love of Christ,
Emanuel Rodriguez



Merry Christmas

Calvary Road Gospel Association Vision/Ministry Trips

May 11—18, 2021

Limited Seats Available!

Commitment needed by January 2021

Please contact Walt Noordam
by email for more information:
waltnoordam@outlook.com



If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please advise us by way of mail or email:

Walt Noordam
526 Chantel Court
Sarnia, ON N7T 6H7
waltnoordam@outlook.com