

CALVARY ROAD GOSPEL ASSOCIATION

September 2020



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²⁴ *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock."*



Carole and I live across from a beach on Havilland Bay, a part of Lake Superior. Yesterday I discovered that a cabin cruiser had washed up onto our beach. The owner was sitting at the picnic table with his camper stove having his breakfast. I asked him what happened. He told me that during the night

Note from the Executive Director

while they were asleep his anchor let go and the wind pushed them into the shore before they realized what had happened.



That's kind of how it felt when the Covid pandemic hit us. We woke up one morning, opened our eyes and everything has changed. But isn't that also an apt metaphor for the spiritual condition of so many? Asleep and drifting. This global pandemic has affected every country and I dare say, every individual. Jobs have been lost, businesses have been severely disrupted and for many, lives are coming apart. In other words, their anchors have let go and their lives are adrift. In fact, if your anchor has let go, then Jesus was not your anchor.

Something or someone else was.

Cuba has not been spared this trial. While the virus itself has not hit Cuba as hard as its western neighbour, the consequences of lockdowns and trade blockades/restrictions have affected them greatly. Our Cuban friends tell us that this is reminiscent of the '90's – the decade following the collapse of the USSR, their biggest trading partner.

As of this date, we still do not know whether Cuba will allow us to proceed with our planned trip in November. It is looking very doubtful. Please continue to pray for the churches and pastors in Cuba. So much needs to be done.

A big thank you to all who contributed to our emergency appeal to help us send a container of food to



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the eastern provinces of Cuba. This food will be distributed to all of the Baptist churches. At this point we are waiting for permission to ship the container! Please continue to pray that the authorities will expedite this as quickly as possible.



Please peruse the rest of our newsletter and in particular hear from our leader Pastor Josue in Cuba. He is in touch with all of the pastors and churches that you all support. Thank you one and all for your ongoing support and prayers for our pastors and churches. Your gifts are making a huge difference of which only eternity will tell.

In His service,
Werner Peters

werner1950@gmail.com



A Note from the Treasurer



The main mandate of Calvary Road Gospel Association continues to be sponsoring pastors in Eastern Cuba, but recently, there were sudden needs that arose, and through your immediate response to support us, we were able to assist in sending food and living essentials to Cuba via shipping containers. I am incredibly encouraged by our collective efforts in meeting such critical needs in such dire times. So I want to thank you for donating to this cause, even in the midst of financial stress. Time and time again, I have witnessed outpouring of generosity as a response to God's call and an outflow of faith. Especially in times such as now when physical gathering of saints is hindered and fellowship challenged, your swift and generous support continuously and increasingly reminds me that God's people are connected through the Holy Spirit, that we are one body, giving glory to Him together.

In addition to meeting immediate needs, Cuban workers will manufacture water filter systems to provide a long-term supply of clean drinking water to families with young children and others with compromised immune systems. This project will provide opportunities for evangelism teams to meet and talk with Cuban families who see our ministry bringing them clean drinking water (and clean drinking water is unfortunately very rare in Cuba). Through these conversations, relationships will be developed and people introduced to Jesus Christ Who is the true Living Water. We continue to see God's Work and the expansion of His Kingdom through our ministry, and we praise God that we can witness an increasing number of Cubans who have both their physical and spiritual needs met. May we continue to rely on our Lord, who provides even for the birds in the air. And so, if you are in a position to give to any projects or pastor sponsorship, it is greatly appreciated.

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



I thank my God upon every remembrance of you! What an unprecedented year 2020 has been so far, and as we look ahead, no one knows the future, save only our God. But we confidently put our trust in Him, Who has sustained us thus far, not just this year, but for many of us, all our lives. How good our God is!

On behalf of our ministry, and our brothers and sisters in, and others outside the Cuban church who also are blessed by your generosity, thank you so very much for your wonderful outpouring of gifts for the special covid summer food and essential supplies project. Although your giving has substantially exceeded our expectations, it is in no way too much, as the need there is great to almost unending. But, make a difference we have, together. Please pray that our sponsored containers are quickly approved for shipment to eastern Cuba (where we typically work); several containers have already landed in western Cuba with others in transit as of this writing.

Although the economic situation in Cuba does seem to us to be more severe every time we go there, I am so pleased to tell you that God's love continues to shine through us and the national people we work with; collectively, we are the hands and feet of Jesus making a difference there, for His glory alone! And despite the ongoing challenges, the contents of our previous container which finally landed early this year, are making small but important differences to many families. And we have come to learn that your regular support for Cuban pastors and missionar-

ies is the principal way that the church of Jesus Christ functions there, pretty much exactly like the New Testament offerings that were carried back to Jerusalem to assist the church there. As a leadership team, we are so honored to represent you and your gifts to our Cuban churches, pastors and missionaries, and families. To that end, we regularly follow up with our leadership team there and during our visits, to ensure that all our support is used efficiently and effectively, whether in the churches, the nursing home, the farms, construction of core homes for hurricane-devastated families, publishing of evangelistic materials, and distribution of essential goods and soon the water filter evangelism project (including our presently in transit steel and supplies that cannot be sourced in Cuba).



A Cuban Mission Post

For all these things, we thank you, and we give glory to God and to Him alone. Please continue to pray for Cuba. Your fellow servant,

Dave Ross



Missionaries Jose & Yoadis

Cuban Missionary Profile

Blessings for you and your family. We work as missionaries for the 10th Baptist Church of Santiago de Cuba "Cristo Vive", located at Santa Ursula Street. My name is Jose Manuel Perez Legra and my wife's name is Yoadis Rodriguez. We have been married for nearly 3 years. (October 2017)

We have been working for the Lord as missionaries for over 2 years now. We currently work with 4 missions: Algdonal, Pinarito, La Esperanza and the newest one located at Los Pozos.

At Algodonal's mission we have baptized 9 new believers, we had 20 but for some problems and situations only 9 were baptized. We are currently working with a new group of 10 people and we plan for them to be baptized before the year ends. In the newest mission we are working with 7 believers and we also plan to baptize them before the end of the year. In the other two missions, since we were in lockdown because of COVID 19, there was no public transportation so we had to travel by bike looking to cheer the new believers. Some weeks ago we started our regular services, following the health regulations like social distancing and wearing masks. The members are thankful to the Lord, their faith has grown and they are witnesses of God's handiwork. God is good and he has never forsaken us. Also during the lockdown days we had a little family service. I always ask Pastor Michel about you and you are always present in our prayers, we love you with the love of Christ, because no matter the distance, we are sons and daughters of the same God.

Greetings to everyone and I want to give you a Bible verse that has touched our hearts: 1 Corinthians 15:58.

God Bless You.

Jose & Yoadis



A Cuba Reflection



CUBA, COVID AND THE BAPTISTS

We thank God for His sustenance and protection in this difficult time that the World has lived. Time of limitations of all kinds, limited transportation, borders, economic resources, food and also "the services in our Churches", the latter the worst for a Church that for the first time in history saw its doors closed without possibility to celebrate worship to God, but on the other hand a daily possibility, while everything was closed and paralyzed, to have in each home, each family a time of adoration and reflection of the Word of God accompanied by prayers in favor of Cuba and the world so that God's mercy would not be lacking at this time.

Times of concern about the shortage of food and personal hygiene, long queues to buy what occasionally arrived at the stores, always knowing that it was not enough for everyone; all expensive in value due to scarcity and people's anxiety about the lack of products.

As a Church and, also, as a convention we are concerned because our resources depend on our life of meeting and work in our temples and also on the invaluable help of brothers from abroad who put their shoulder next to ours to do the work of God, and at this moment neither the one, nor the other. We lived in fear for our loved ones when having to face this disease, isolation and the battle in a hospital without hope of return, aware of the scarcity and limitations of resources in our health system, fearing for this a collapse in the hospitals due to the spread of the virus. But God has been good and "there has not been a test greater than what we can bear", even at this time we are struggling with a dangerous regrowth of Covid, mainly in the west of our country, but God took care of us and still cares for us, He has freed his people in Cuba and we believe that he will continue to do so.

The Word of God says: "That the prayer of the just can do a lot," we do "pray without ceasing" and we ask each of you to pray for us, pray for Cuba, pray for Cuban homes and families. Pray for the people of God in Cuba to be delivered, but above all, that they have the opportunity to glorify God and reach the lost in a time as difficult as this.

We pray for you, pray for us, too.
God bless you and give you all peace.

Pastor Josue.



Calvary Road Gospel Association Vision/Ministry Trips

March 10—17, 2021

Limited Seats Available!

Commitment needed by November 2020

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



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