Current news and reflections from the ministry! Read On...

September 2013

Greetings!

There are plenty of worthwhile causes and charities around the world. So why do we ask you to support our specific efforts?

This particular time in history heralds an unprecedented window of opportunity for growing God’s church in Cuba. First, the church is expanding, currently two million people, or roughly 18 percent of the population, identify as Protestant. What is more, the government has recently started to permit churches to provide independent neighborhood humanitarian services such as transportation, meals, and care for elderly and disadvantaged Cubans. At long last, church members are allowed to answer the Lord’s call to serve their brothers and sisters in need.

The church in Cuba needs pastors and leaders with sound theological training to make the most of this new opportunity. And they need resources and other support. Sadly, many Cuban Christians remain vulnerable to the influence of cults that distort the truth. EchoCuba, a well established education program in Cloud Word can help church leaders ensure that the message of the Gospel is not corrupted. As EchoCuba, we have a strong ongoing commitment to provide training and support for individuals and congregations to be able to do so without your help.

This month’s TIP Sheet explains the history of the church in Cuba in more detail. When we look at the big picture, we can see how far we have come, and, most of all, envision how concerted efforts today will bear lasting fruit for years to come.

Thank you for expressing your love and concern through your support of EchoCuba. Because of you, we are able to offer thousands of lost and hurting people in Cuba what they desperately need: the love of Jesus. And please keep in mind that we consider it an honor to prayerfully intercede on your behalf, so don’t hesitate to let us know how we can be praying for you.

The Story of Faith in Cuba
By: Tai Balun

With a current population of 11 million, today Cuba is home to roughly two thousand Protestant groups representing about 1,000 churches and chapels. The largest denomination is the Assemblies of God, with about 80,000 members.

Religion in Post-Revolution Cuba
For most of the past 40 years, Cuba has officially been an atheist state. In 1963, Castro's government seized and shut down more than 400 Catholic schools, claiming that they spread "dangerous" beliefs among the people. Many church buildings, including pews and priests, were also sent to labor farms for re-education and other unspecified "solutions."

For decades the Cuban government has discouraged its citizens from participating in religious activity and has allowed only Catholicism. When Fidel Castro fell, however, there is hope for the future, as the government appears to be beginning to relax some of the stronger restrictions of the past.

Other Religious Movements
Sources estimate that as high as 80 percent of the population consults with practitioners of religions with West African roots, such as Santeria or Yoruba, for assistance with immediate problems such as bearing children, curing illness, or ensuring safe passage.

The Christian Church in Cuba
Catholic Church officials estimate 10 percent of the baptized Catholics attend Mass regularly. Membership in Protestant churches is estimated at 500,000 and growing. The Baptists are possibly the largest Protestant denomination, followed by Pentecostals, particularly the Assembly of God. The number of Pentecostals is believed to be rising sharply. Jehovah’s Witnesses report more than 80,000 members, the Seventh-day Adventists 30,000, and Methodists 15,000. There are 20,000 Anglicans, 15,000 Presbyterians, and 1,000 Quakers.

Please Give
Your financial contributions will help and evangelize many of the thousands of villages and schools, provide healthcare to developing nation, help train widows with skills that will allow them to survive economically, feed schools that will train native pastors for full-time ministry, and literally save the lives of thousands of people who are in physical and spiritual need.

GIVE NOW

We Need Your HELP

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Send Me A Message

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