

Evangelical Christian Humanitarian Outreach to Cuba
 WWW.ECHOCUBA.ORG

Letter from the Editor

I count it a privilege to be involved in Cuba at this precise point in history. My wife Claudia and I joined ECHO-Cuba six months ago, ten years after God originally put Cuba on my heart. I remember praying: "Lord, hurry up! Castro can't live much longer and I want to be part of that transition, I want to see Your power and Your Spirit move when change finally comes". Well, God promptly sent me to... Chile. Little did I know how much I had to learn, or how long it would be before a transition would come. We all know that a change of the guard is at hand, but what we don't know is the means or the repercussions of such a change. Theories abound, but the final outcome of a 40+ year regime shall remain a mystery... for just a little longer. Yet it's not the anticipation of political change that makes my heart race, there's a much bigger reality breaking forth on the shores of this Caribbean island. It's part of a promise that was given back in the Garden of Eden. It was birthed in blood on Calvary, inaugurated at Pentecost and will continue to advance until Christ's glorious return. The Spirit, hope and redemption of Christ is alive in His church in Cuba, and Jesus' words to Peter resound throughout the island: "Upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of Hell shall not stand against it"! In Cuba, Christ's body has undergone oppression by the physical hand of

man, but as with the early church, and throughout history, God uses what man intends for his own evil purposes and turns it around, bringing about His own good, holy and history changing purposes. The fires of persecution become the fires of refinement that result in pure spiritual

gold. Over the decades God has been faithfully preparing the Church in Cuba, and I am convinced that this includes guiding a spiritually and physically deprived nation into a new era. While only He knows what that will look like, I am hoping and praying for a nation, *and a government*, that not only embraces the Gospel, but sends it out in shipments of heavenly wealth to other spiritually impoverished nations. Without a doubt, it is an absolute privilege to be involved with Christ's body in Cuba. Please pray that we, the staff at ECHO-Cuba, will hear God's voice and follow His lead in the days and years ahead. We also ask you to join us in prayer for the unity, witness and influence of the Cuban Church – within Cuba's own borders, out to the rest of the world and until Christ's final return.



Kevin S. Abegg
 ECHO-Cuba Ministries
 Coordinator

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About ECHO –Cuba

Ministry Vision:

Building and empowering the Cuban Evangelical Christian Church, and uniting those who can help, with Cuban Christians who need help.

Ministry Mission: ECHO-Cuba is a mission community of Christ-centered people committed to reaching the people of Cuba with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are strengthened by our compassion for the Evangelical Christian Church. We perform this mission through programs, which promote Christian education, capital projects, social & human services, humanitarian needs, agricultural entrepreneurship, and church organizational capacity.



Caring hands of service.

How to Contact ECHO-Cuba

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ECHO-Cuba Prayer Requests

One of our current projects consists of getting dry milk to 4,000 malnourished children by way of 200 churches in Eastern Cuba. We are currently “walking” the milk in with individual short-term missionaries at 120 lbs. per trip which is both costly and time consuming. Our hope is to send a shipping container, but Cuban government red tape has made this impossible thus far. Please pray that those who have given verbal approval for the shipping would follow through with the written documentation necessary to make this a reality.

ECHO-Cuba is being constantly made aware of new, creative and wonderful projects run by Cubans in order to reach the physical and spiritual needs of their country. Please pray for the Lord to touch the hearts and minds of those who could come along side those ministering in Cuba and lighten their financial burdens.

David and Elisa are ECHO-Cuba’s in country representatives. Please pray for them as they deal with the daily pressures of Cuban life, as well as for wisdom in ministering under a government that is not welcoming of the Gospel.

Ministry Highlights

Christian Education -Since January 1, 2003, ECHO-Cuba has delivered eleven computers to eight different Protestant educational organizations and seminaries. Each computer is loaded with Word, Excel, Power Point, Bible studies, commentaries, atlases, various Bible translations, and Bible dictionaries, all in Spanish. Based on reports from the island, more than 170 students or teachers are using these computers and software to conduct studies and research. Since this project began in 2000, a total of twenty-nine similar computers have been delivered to eleven Protestant organizations, assisting more than 2,000 different students, teachers, and pastors with their work and studies. It is our hope to distribute an additional 166 computers to the fourteen targeted seminaries and Protestant educational centers throughout Cuba.

Social & Human Services -ECHO-Cuba’s elderly health-care manuals, developed in conjunction with Florida International University (FIU), have found widespread support throughout Cuba. The manuals are being used by small and large health-care and adult-care facilities, yet are written in such a way that a non-medically trained individual can use it at home. So far, 917 books and thirty-two CDs have been distributed to thirteen different groups in five Cuban provinces.

Focal Point Project

● Cubans are used to living in a land of difficulties,
● be that political, social or financial. Where Jamaica’s national
● slogan is “No Problem”, Cuba’s would be “No es facil” (it’s not
● easy). Although they are used to struggling for survival, when
● Cubans find themselves at the bottom of an already desperate
economy, it’s hard to see any hope. Yet hope is exactly what one woman in the costal city of Manzanillo is bringing to families in distress. Loraine de la Caridad Ojeda is using what little she has to encourage and help mother’s and their children who’s husbands are either in jail or have altogether abandoned the home. Every week she puts together gift baskets of rice, cooking oil, soap and other daily necessities and delivers them to some of the most needy of her town along with the message of Christ’s love and ever-present hope. The women who receive these baskets of love have called her “a saint” or “an angel”, but Loraine prefers to be know as a servant of the true provider, her Lord Jesus. Currently Loraine has to select four or five of the most desperate situations from a long list of women and children in dire need, but she does what she can with what little she has.

ECHO-Cuba is constantly learning of and cataloguing ministries such as Loraine’s for the purpose of seeking donors who want to become part of reaching the minds, bodies and souls of Cuba with the tangible and eternal love of Christ. If you would like to know more about similar ministry possibilities, please contact us, and together we can continue to reach out to the people of Cuba.



Children’s ministries in Cuba

Ministry Guiding Principles

ECHO-Cuba’s strategic work will be to create and adapt methods that will strengthen the church. Through our mutual vision for a strong church, we will achieve great benefits and organizational excellence, and in so doing our vital mission will be moved forward to the benefit of those we serve. We will collaborate with local leaders throughout Cuba and with others to bring hearts, minds and resources together. We agree to face each situation honestly and with determination and in dependence of God. We will be a caring ministry. Our efforts will be non-political.

Vision for a Christian Cuba

www.visioncuba.org

Vision for a Christian Cuba is an initiative organized by a group of concerned Christians from different denominations for the purpose of reaching the people of Cuba with the Gospel of Jesus Christ by: Making Christians worldwide aware of what God is doing in Cuba

Mark your calendar, our next meeting is March 23rd
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
At Latin America Mission
In Miami
PLEASE See instructions for RSVP

Agenda for the March 23rd meeting

9:00 – 10:00 am –Presentation & Discussion, Mr. Charles L. Bishop, U.S. Department of the Treasury, OFAC Miami Office.

10:30-12:00 Noon-Introductions and updates from ministries, churches, and organizations. Chairman, Skip Allcorn and updates from over 40 organizations working in Cuba.

12:00 – 2:00 pm- Lunch & Presentation, Dr. Noemi Gorrin: Director, Humanitarian & Medical Aid, Cuban Council of Churches.

2:00 – 4:00 pm- Missions Tabletop Exhibits & Networking. Bring your materials, brochures, and pictures to share and network with others There will be plenty of time for questions, & open discussions.

If you would like to attend the March 23 meeting, it will be held at the Latin America Mission office at 5465 NW 36 Street, Miami, FL.

For reservations or information please send your name and the number of people attending along with any questions to:

Fax (904) 399-1281

E-mail: valentine@coastal-fla.com

Phone: (800) 226-7171

For hotel reservations call Kevin at LAM at: 305-884-8400 Ext. 22

Highlights From Last Vision Meeting

Facultad Latinoamérica de Estudios Teológicos (FLET University)- LOGOI Ministries

Dr. Larry McCullough of FLET University gave a presentation of their work with Los Pinos Nuevos Seminary in Placetas, just outside of Santa Clara, Cuba. “Our biggest challenge is to prepare pastors to be ready when there is a transition in government”, said Larry. Costs will go up astronomically to do what we can do now for much less.

Miami International Seminary (MINTS):

Dr. Neal Hegeman of MINTS gave a presentation on MINTS long distance learning institute working in Cuba.

Institute of Theology by Extention (INSTE)

INSTE was founded in 1982 in Spain as a ministry of the Department of International Ministries of Open Bible Churches. Since its beginning INSTE has been committed to working with all evangelical churches that share our common faith, including churches in Cuba.

Christian International Family Travel (CIFT):

Rev Carlos Diaz presented the travel services of his organizations for ministries and groups wishing to travel or ship humanitarian supplies to Cuba. CIFT can be contacted at 305-245-1717



Vision for a Christian Cuba Sept. 23, 2003