



Stabler News



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Dear Family and Friends,

For the last two and a half years our family has championed the nation of Cuba in our YWAM Orlando community. We feel called of the Lord to “shine a spotlight” on this island so that one day some of the many young people who come to our campus to be trained and launched as long-term missionaries will go to Cuba long term and join in the stream of what God is doing and wants to do through the people of Cuba. We have traveled there several times during these years always using our own finances to go and to help some believers in Cuba with a variety of financial and material resources. We also go to encourage the believers there, who often feel isolated from the rest of the body of Christ.

This verse became especially meaningful to me as our family recently returned from another ministry trip to the communist socialist island nation of Cuba:

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” --John 1:5

. When most of us think of Cuba we tend to think of sunshine, warm tropical weather, and beautiful white sand beaches that are bordered by the aquamarine blue crystal-clear Caribbean Sea. Cuba, an island nation of 11 million people, sits at the northern part of the Caribbean chain of island only 90 miles south of Florida. The peoples of Cuba are as diverse as the history of their island. For almost 60 years now Cuba has lived in a state of “revolution” as the nation’s leaders have continually lead their country further and further down the path of communist socialism. Down the path of little to

no freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of assembly, and freedom of religion— just to name a few. Crumbling buildings, and other scenes of dilapidated infrastructure, lie on every corner of the capital city, Havana. Fresh fruit and vegetables, normally in abundance on a tropical island, are almost nonexistent for the average Cuban person. The smell of rotten garbage hitting you in the face on just about every other block.



Sadly (maybe unknowingly too), many not from Cuba trivialize the effects this worldview and its ongoing “revolution” have had on the Cuban people. “Revolution” has become a fad in more ways than one and here is just one example. Wearing urban clothing with the silhouette of one of the Cuban revolution’s main players is seen as fashionable and in style. The ironic thing is that in our family’s continual travel to Cuba we’ve rarely seen a Cuban person

wearing the “revolutionary silhouetted” style clothing so many not from the island wear. My guess is the Cuban people are more aware of the impact which the “revolution” has in real everyday life than those who only see it as a “fad” or something “fashionable” to look cool in.



Yet, amid this dark time in Cuba the Lord, as He always does, has His people who shine as lights in the streets, the barrios, the cities, and mountainous regions of this nation.

- A family who has very little food and hardly any money; yet welcomes others—who have less than they do—into their home with a promise to care for them as their own. Sharing the very little they have with others. For not one or two meals. For one or two years.
- A young man who spear heads what is now an ongoing initiative among artists and journalists to use their giftings to reach out to university students and other young people disillusioned by a dark ideology. Even though what they do is illegal-like against the constitution illegal. Even though the government has found out who they are and what they’re doing. Even though the risks they take could send them to prison-like others who have gone before them for similar reasons.
- A Pastor of a local house church who longs to go with people from his church to the nations of the world as a missionary. Yet cannot because it is impossible for a Cuban believer to be a missionary and “go into all the world and preach the gospel.” So, until that becomes possible he sends (and sometimes goes with) his congregation into the interior of Cuba to share the

love of Jesus with people there; people yet to experience the saving love of God.

The Lord has His people in Cuba and they shine the light of Christ in a spiritually dark place.

Our family has just returned from a week of “joining into the stream of what God is doing” through those shining bright in Cuba. We were excited and humbled to be a part of a group of Cuban young people who are training to be servants for another kingdom—the Kingdom of God. Excited to see young men and women living in hope and faith in a situation that is not so easy to do. Humbled to see the sacrifices these Cuban young people make to so boldly follow Jesus in a place where it really costs a lot to live fully for Christ.



We go to Cuba in hopes of giving strength and hope to our brothers and sisters there; we always return having been given much more of the same from them. To God be the glory.

Keep the Faith,

David, Rebecca, Martina, Noah, and Tiffany