

Orphaned in Cuba



Volume 39 Issue 7 SUMMER 2018

Can you imagine your children being pre-teen or early teenage years finding out that both mom and dad were killed in a plane crash. That happened to twenty families from our faith community in Cuba on May 18 of this year. These are children who were living in secure, happy homes with mom and dad as the pastors of the church. The whole church was part of their family and now they have to move out to facilitate another pastoral family to move in to pastor the church. Can you imagine the heart break...the pain...the grief...the loss they are feeling. Their world just exploded and they are trying to hang onto the pieces of their lives.

On June 28, Grant and Roberta Kurian, C.E.O. missionaries, went to Holguin, Cuba. The purpose of this trip was to meet with as many family members of the Pastoral couples lost to the plane crash. We felt the call from God to go at this time. Rolando & Pastor Mariel, from the Nazarene Church in Holguin compiled a detail report of each family, the ages their caretakers and community they lived in. Mariel did an excellent job with all the completed information.

We set out to Holguin with Rolando & Nurian and Pastors Alex & Dory from the local community. We considered it a great privilege to go and bring any comfort or give a listening ear or cry with those who cry. The next 2 days proved to be emotionally exhausting as well as fulfilling. We came to the Nazarene Church and deposited our 4 very heavy suitcases. Mariel met us there and made introductions. The Grandmother and 13 year daughter of the Pastoral couple presently live in the Church, but will have to be moved very soon as another couple will be taking over the responsibility. The grandmother was in her 70's and very distraught. The young lady tried to be brave, but emotions ran very high for all of us as we prayed & cried together.



We then left to visit an elderly grandmother, who just had a tumor removed from her body now in charge of a young, 11-year-old boy who was experiencing a lot of anger along with grief. He had requested a soccer uniform, so was very happily surprised when we brought not only clothing but a soccer ball and shoes. We talked and visited for a time prayed for them and went on our way. This lady was very positive even with an elderly husband who is not well and now the responsibility of an active 11-year-old.



Our next stop was a home with 3 boys, twin 15-year-olds and one 13-year-old boy, Dario, who was having some kind of genetic problem as he was the size of an eight year old. You could see how hurting these children were, they were very withdrawn and were trying to keep their emotions under control. We opened our bags to give out the clothes and shoes we had brought. We had no idea of this young man's situation, he had requested a soccer ball, but there were no clothes or shoes that would fit. The look on his face brought us to tears. This young man was already experiencing anger because of the incredible loss of both parents and now the further loss of their family home as once again there would be a new Pastoral couple moving in.

We asked if we could take him to the store and purchase a pair of soccer shoes in his size. He said no and left the room. We asked again if we could go and purchase shoes for him, so he brought us an insole from one of his shoes. He was determined not to come with us so we went off to the store ourselves. We purchased a beautiful, expensive pair of Soccer shoes bright Orange, green & yellow! On returning to the family home we noticed Dario playing with some of his friends and the new soccer ball. These kids were playing with flip flops they have "tough toes" We stopped and called him over, He was excited to try them on, the shoes were a little big, so Grant asked if he should take them back. With an emphatic NO he smiled saying I will keep these!!!! He then left with his friends, who were 3 feet taller than him. They patted him on his head & back Rejoicing with him. We were sorry that we hadn't had shoes for all of them. Grant left \$ 200 for the grandmother to purchase food for the family. We continued on our way, rejoicing in the incredible faithfulness and love of our Heavenly FATHER!



We then visited a grandmother who had lost her daughter & son in law. She was now in charge of a 14-year-old boy, who was visiting a friend in another community. She was very distraught as her daughter was her best friend and the loss was incredible. This daughter was also the secretary of the whole Nazarene conference and the loss to the Superintendent and congregations is significant.

We returned exhausted to our hotel for the evening. The next morning, we headed out again with the team meeting with the Superintendent of The Nazarene conference as well as the Pastor in charge of Compassion ministries. The loss to the Nazarene Church was incredible and we listened intently to what these men had to say. The Superintendent was to be on the flight, but had too much responsibility to go to the conference. Another of the Holguin pastors stopped in to receive his support, he also told us he was booked for the Conference, but was unable to go as he was needed at home. So, they were saved from the crash.

We then headed out to Las Tunas, and villages we had never seen before to visit the family members, adult children 20 & over. We stopped at a very small home, inside were numerous family members and a 21-year-old man who had lost both his parents. These were very meager homes with no glass windows, thatched roofs and small rooms. The young man now had nowhere to live, both parents gone so was staying with this large group of extended family. This would be a very temporary situation for him. We all prayed for God's help and a place to stay for this young man. Leaving with them clothing, garden seeds and bedding. We then went over to another small congregation where they proceeded to tell us about the Pastor who is now with our Lord. There is so much grief in this community. We prayed for an old man who was blind and many other people with various pains. One lady stated the pain was removed from her knee as we prayed. We then drove over an hour on extremely rough roads to a home with some very hurting Grandparents. This was at the request of a young man, presently taking University courses.



We thought this was an extremely thoughtful gesture so were very glad to accommodate. These dear people were so broken hearted over the loss of their son & daughter-in-law and missing their grandson. Tears flowed freely as we prayed for this couple. We left blankets, clothing and shoes, which according to Grandma was what their grandson was praying for.



The final Church we visited was in another remote area lots of potholes☺. The temperature read 38 Celcius. This Church was waiting our visit with a few couples present. There was an interim Pastoral couple there, but the Church was really pushing for the young couple who had just lost Mom & Dad to take over! He was upset and it seemed he was not ready or willing to fill their shoes. Roberta received a message for the group, before we left Canada, Home Hardware had donated numerous flower & vegetable seeds. We had passed some out to other congregations, but had a very large bag left. Roberta felt to talk about the seeds as seeds of Hope. She encouraged the members to plant the seeds all around the Church in front of the fence as a sign of new life. That everyone who passed by would wonder about the beauty and the growth of these plants. This would be a testimony of the seeds of Faith the Pastors sowed here while on earth for God's Kingdom. Then the Church could share about the love & faithfulness of Father God, with the neighborhood and that as they watered them they would remember those that are now with Him and bless God for their lives. They were asked if they would also give the seeds to others in the community as a remembrance of the Pastors. Roberta prayed that it would rain as the grounds were parched. We then prayed a blessing over the young couple's new baby and left them with baby blankets, sheets and clothing for the Church. We left to return to Holguin and it began to rain a beautiful warm rain.

A promise was made to help each family for 1 year. Funds were given at \$50 per child. It was decided that Alex & Mariel would be responsible & accountable for the distribution & the funds. These are all seasoned men of God in agreement that God was pleased with this plan. They were grateful for the help and willing to help in any way. Grant explained the part One Heart & CEOM would play and that the President, Terry Lewis would try and visit in the fall. We also discussed documentation & paperwork, which they were very familiar with. They were also familiar with One Heart as Mariel has been receiving support through One Heart. They had good things to say about the Ministry. *Grant & Roberta Kurian* (Ed.Note: This is just a partial story of one trip by one team to one place)

Focus on Finances & Prayer: *Thank you for all your support. Together with God we are seeing Him do amazing things in the lives of many. The summer slump seems to always occur and finances are tight. Please keep praying and encouraging others to become involved. Right now we urgently request prayer for a challenge we are experiencing.*

SAM I AM CENTRE IN LECHARD HAITI; (July 31, 2018) ALIX & GERTRUDE JEAN-PAUL



What a wonderful experience our first weekend camp has been! We welcome in total 180 campers for the four weekends, an average of 45 per camp. It was by all account a life changing experience for many. The testimonies from the parents overwhelmed the leaders. The request from the participants for more camps like these are very encouraging. The Christian environment based on the Fruit of the Spirit created and practiced at the Centre has made it a very special place for the campers. Many have said they had never experienced anything like this in their communities.



Two parents, having heard the testimonies of their children as a result of the participation in the weekend camp, have decided to come to see for themselves. Having heard and having seen for themselves, they have decided to walk or travel two kilometres to attend the church at the Centre. When Pastor Namphy asked them why they did it, they said: our children have never experienced anything like that. God is here.

The Centre has passed the test. Sam I Am Centre is truly a place: to meet God, to love God and to serve God. It is the result of the generosity of many. Your support has made it possible. It is true Haiti is a broken place. It is true the power of darkness seems to prevail in many facets of life in the country. The Centre by the grace of God is a place where the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ is shining for all to see and to experience.

It has not been easy for Pastor Namphy and his team. The persecution is intense. However, like the well is providing clean water for the people and the solar panels light in the darkness, the Gospel of Jesus Christ will overcome.

When I asked Pastor Namphy to tell me the reason for his determination to uphold the vision of the Centre. He told me that he has experienced during the camps the following five hopeful behaviours in the participants: He feels the presence of the Holy Spirit when the children are singing, or reciting Bible verses, or responding to Bible question, or how they treat and serve each other, and how through their prayers they are connected to the Holy Spirit.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

As of January to June 2018, 70000 Haitian migrants have been forcefully returned to Haiti by the Dominican authority. The uncertainty and the fear of forced deportation have created quite a bit of stress for children and their parents. They feel helpless and live in fear of being separated from their loved ones at any time, day or night. Our school is doing well. They had in June a beautiful graduation ceremony to highlight the success of many and the promotion of some.

Pastor Noelson and his wife are expecting their second child. They are concerned about the delay in renewing their papers so that they can continue their ministry in the school. They are also in the process of renewing the permit requires to operate the school in DR. Please, keep them in prayers. Photos:

1. The new family of five (two parents and three children) who joins the church at the Centre Namphy in the middle Pastors Wislin and Gesner at the extreme
2. The three-wheeler has been repaired to transport the children
3. The young girls have learned to make flowers for decoration
4. Physical exercises are part of the camp activities



WE ARE A TEAM...

Empowering Ministries to ...

Reach the Lost, Revive the weak, Rescue the fallen, Restore the broken, Reconcile the offended, Release the Discipled

CHRISTIANS EMPOWERING ORGANIZATIONS Box 283 ST. VITAL, MANITOBA R2N3X9 OR EMAIL:

ceoministriescanada@gmail.com or Phone: 204-227-0966 WebSite: ceoministries.ca

“Ethiopia stretches out her hands to God...” Psalms 68: 31



By Berhanu Ayano

Ethiopia stretched out her hands to the Living God and in His faithfulness, God answered the prayers of those who cried out to Him for years. Finally, He started moving in a wonderful way that no one has ever imagined. Those who used to persecute Evangelical Christians are turning to the Lord. Muslims and Coptic believers are turning away from their hostile acts against Evangelical Christians, and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. The number of Muslim converts to Christianity is staggering. For the first time in the Ethiopian history, an Evangelical Christian became a Prime Minister who is not ashamed to speak in public about the need for forgiveness, reconciliation, love and unity in order to rebuild Ethiopia.

My last mission trip to Ethiopia was in February this year. At that time, the country was in a political upheaval – daily protests and public unrest, state of emergency, tensions and fighting between tribes. I came back on March 30. On April 2, 2018, the new prime minister took office. Since then, the state of emergency lifted, political prisoners released, Ethiopia and Eritrea reconciled, the 20 years hostility between the two nations resolved, leaders of many political parties returned to Ethiopia. God is touching the hearts of many Ethiopians.

Mission-Ethiopia, under C. E. O., is serving in Ethiopia in ways that churches never served before. We promote Christian unity instead of denominational mission. We work with all who proclaim repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, love and Christian unity. We support and empower without denominational barriers. We go to rural areas, which are difficult to travel to and remote places, which are uncomfortable to stay in.

My next trip to Ethiopia will be on September 18, 2018 for the duration of six weeks. During this period, I will be training local missionaries and church leaders in six rural locations, distribute Bibles, support and facilitate water baptism of new converts, provide school supplies and uniforms to students from poor families etc. The cost of this trip is about \$51,055.

Please pray as the Holy Spirit prompts you and support as the good Lord enables you.

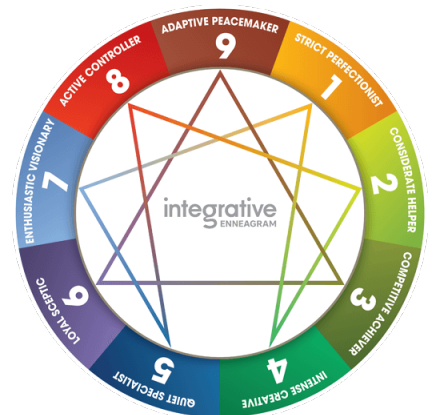
Enneagram Retreat:

September 21-23 @ Wilderness Edge, Pinawa, Manitoba

Discover why you do what you do—how our gifts are also our challenges.

Video Presentations by Richard Rohr facilitated by Dr. Terry Lewis.

Cost: \$ 125/person includes your room and meals beginning Friday at 6 pm. No charge for the video presentations, interactions and discussions. Bring your laptop or tablet to take the test and notes as you learn about yourself, your marriage and why others relate to you the way they do. This could be a life-changing weekend as we get insight into how God made us in our own individualistic way and how that can be used to help us understand and value each other.



Register: Name _____ Address _____
P.C. _____ Email _____

Please make cheques payable to: C.E.O.Ministries and include payment with registration.

