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FOCUS ON CUBA

HUMANITARIAN
CRISIS

A CRY FOR HELP: READ * WEEP * PRAY * PRAISE * GIVE

— Thank you This

is a report mainly from one region in Cuba—"Holguin" and covers several communities in the lower part of the island. These stories are written by one of our teams as part of a report they are required to send to us as a matter of accountability and to indicate how we are helping. Please read the reports and make each one a matter of prayer. This is a sample of reports that we receive. They were to

focus on the elderly, widows, sick, single moms, and those most poor and in need.

We visited a couple that had been eating "*casaba*" for a week, (a flat round bake made out of yucca flour). They had no rice, no vegetables, nothing else. They were grateful to God for the food they received because He is good and faithful. Dora Martínez is a 75-year-old lady who has her son in prison and he is now a Christian and is firm in the Lord inside the prison. This family lives in extreme poverty, because both parents are old and sick. They have no way to sustain themselves and even less to send some food to their son. When we gave them this aid of food, they were really grateful for the love gesture towards them.

José Cobas Toirac was an alcoholic and thinking of killing his family the very day Jesus stepped into his life and changed his direction. He has a son suffering from encephalopathy and another young lady with Down syndrome, whose mother left her at his house for an hour but abandoned her and they raised her. José's wife had sight surgery and was retired and they live only on her pension. One of their family members is in prison. José has an amputated leg but they are all Christians and are firm in the way of the Lord. Also, their other children and grandchildren accepted the Lord. They felt really blessed when they received this bag of food and thank you for it.

Miriam Romero is a senior lady, she is 64 years old. Both of her sons are in prison, both also lost their marriages and she has had to face the raising of her grandchildren because their mothers abandoned them. Her situation is precarious, this bag of food has been a real help for their lives.

There was another family who was in the line almost a whole day in the Ration store to buy the food for the month because they ran out of everything. Something happened and they couldn't buy that day. When we arrived that very same day with the food, it was the only provisions in the house that day; they were able to dine that evening! It was a miracle of God that they enjoyed and thanked Him for His timely provision.

Milsaidys and her sister live in a critical condition; both of their husbands are in prison. They have little children that they have to sustain and they don't get any help. They are really grateful for this aid because that very same day, they had nothing to feed their children.



SINGLE MOTHER OF TWO AGONIZING OVER HER STARVING CHILDREN ENDS THEIR AGONY AND HOPELESSNESS BY KILLING THEM AND THEN KILLING HERSELF. CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO SEE YOUR CHILDREN STARVING TO DEATH AND UNABLE TO HELP? LET US HELP THESE PEOPLE AND PROVIDE FOOD AND HOPE.



Meat Processing Team



We could help Rodolfo and his family. He is a young missionary, he is studying to be a doctor and he lives with his wife and his baby boy. They thank God and you for the food, especially for his wife in these times of needs when she has to nurse.

Mirtha is Manuelki's mother, he is in prison but he is Christian. There are 8 people of this family living in the same house with really bad conditions. Mirtha's daughter is nephritic and is on hemodialysis treatment. This help of food has been very timely because they have a hard situation with the shortage of food.



Through our chaplaincy ministry we work with convicts in the prison and their family outside of prison. In Cuba, it is very easy to end up in prison. There are few legal ways of earning enough money to feed a family and so many resort to illegal ways rather than see their families starve.

Frank is a chaplain with 4 children. They live outside the city in a very small house, dirt floor and it is really hard to get food for all. He saw this help as God taking care of his family and providing for them. .

Alina Nápoles is 70 years old, she is Adalberto Gutiérrez Nápoles' mother. He is in prison. He has a sentence of 18 years for murder. Alina is a widow and lives alone because Adalberto is her only son. She has to sustain herself with the strength she has left. Sometimes, she cleans some houses to be able to buy food, or runs the errands of other families who pay her with some food or some money. This help we gave her meant a lot, it came in a time of many needs because she is a senior. Her son has been transformed by God in the prison. She thanks God for our visit and the financial help we gave her.



Reina Cruz's husband is in prison. She is a mother of 2 kids. She lives on the countryside and travels 8 kilometers to work even though the money is not enough. They are needy people. Her husband's sentence is 12 years and still has many to serve. He can barely help her. But he is Christian and receives restoration programs inside the prison. She is really grateful for this help and has no words to thank for it.

Eugenia Graña and María Antonia are mother and daughter. They are divorced from their husbands and live on a salary. Their situation is really poor. The only one who helped was María's son, Pedro José, but he is 25 years old and is serving a sentence of 25 years. In a fight with a neighbor, he killed him. But the neighbor had AIDS and through one wound, Pedro was infected.

He is in a special department of the prison but is receiving Christian counseling and he attends a prayer group there. Eugenia also takes care of her sister with mental problems. María Antonia has a 17-year-old daughter. Despite all their situations, they attend the church in Velasco town, Holguín.





THIS YOUNG GIRL'S FATHER WORKS HARD ON A FARM ALL DAY FOR 65 CENTS. TOOTH PASTE COSTS \$5. SOAP, COOKING OIL, AND RICE ARE LIMITED AND ARE EITHER AT A HIGH PRICE OR NOT AVAILABLE. HOW WOULD YOU MANAGE?

Ofelia regularly attends the church in Pedregoso (countryside in Holguín). Her husband passed away some years ago. After he died, her son committed suicide and left her with two grandchildren. She is depressed. Ofelia's other daughter is married to an alcoholic who has a lot of problems with the police due to his temper after he drinks. That has caused his wife many problems. Under that fire of trials, sister Ofelia managed to attend the services to receive encouragement from God to face each day. She is really grateful for the help you provided.



Leidis Almaguer Montes was abandoned by her husband (witch doctor) with her 3 children. Leidis is living difficult days in extreme poverty. Some neighbors give them some food because the father doesn't provide for them. The youngest daughter has prostituted herself for a living. But thank God, the church is working with this family and helping to meet some of their needs.

My name is Eloisa Espinosa and I am 75 years old. My son, Jorge Luis Licea Espinosa is in prison. The ministry has visited me several times to help me, I live alone and assist my son in prison who has still 5 years to serve. I want to thank the brothers who visit me for being so generous to me. I'm in need, I don't work because I don't have strength to do physical jobs. I can't thank enough for this gift you brought me. I had no money, not even to buy the bread from the ration store (cheap). When I visit my son in prison, I will tell him about this for him to thank God and you as I do.

José Luis Mora is my husband and he is in Provincial Típico prison. He has to serve a sentence of 10 years, he also has throat cancer. I don't work and I have a son, he is minor. It has been a blessing for me that the chaplain brought me this help because I am going through difficult situations. This food is really helpful for me and my son. I pray for my husband for God to heal him and allow him to be released soon. Thank you so much for everything.

Yadisbel Méndez is Orlando Méndez's daughter, he is in prison. He stole and has a sentence of 6 years. Yadisbel lives with her mother and her younger sister. Her mother doesn't work but attends a chaplaincy prayer group and the brothers there, and the missionary help them. Their situation is really poor, some days, they don't cook because there is not food. But thank God, some brothers help them for the children not to go to sleep without eating. Both, the mother and the girl are very grateful for the help delivered. It meant a lot to them because their kitchen was empty. They thank God and the ministry.

We thank our God for visiting Reina Fuentes Romero's family. She is Melquis' mother, an inmate. He receives assistance by the chaplains in the prison, but he was transferred because he is mocked for being a Christian. Melquis' brother is paraplegic and has suffered two strokes. In the middle of this situation, they saw God's hand providing them the necessary products like food and hygiene articles in this time of great need.

Thanks God we could arrive at Iris Frometa's house. She is a senior woman who is 75 and suffers from Parkinson's disease, epilepsy, and high blood pressure. Her husband has tumors all over his body and her son is in prison. Her house was affected by hurricane Ike and it is still being built slowly due to the lack of resources. This is a very difficult situation but God has no limits to bless. They felt God's support when we visited them to help them with a supplement of necessary food and some toiletries. It was provision from heaven for them who had nothing.

God watches over those who have needs and are alone. That is the case of Anisia Laffita's family. Anisia is 99 years old and she lives with her 74-year-old daughter who is sick and another senior son. All of them are sick and mentally ill. Unfortunately, Anisia's grandson is in prison. Many times they have nothing to eat, but the Lord has not abandoned them and an example of that is our visit to help them at the proper time, considering that it is very difficult for them to obtain food and toiletries.

God gave us the opportunity of visiting Irma Sanchez' house. She is 70 years old. She is semi- confined to bed as a consequence of a fracture in her hips which is very serious for a person of her age. Her son was in prison but was released. We could help these senior people with food and hygiene articles, so they were happy and grateful for God's provision in the middle of their need.





God does not forget those who suffer. An example of that is Mayla Muñoz who is an inmate's wife. They have three children who are 10, 8, and 7 years old. Alvaro is the inmate's name. He was sentenced for signing some papers he should not have signed and it was considered fraud, but he is an honest man. He is the painter of his municipality. The children's grandmother told us that one of the children gathers empty cans to sell and the other goes to the homes to sell bread to help their mother with some money. One of the children is traumatized and he sleeps with his father's pillow because on his birthday, his father went out to bring the cake but he did not come back home because the police arrested him. His case is an injustice, but God's mercy never ends and with your help, we could provide them with food and toiletries. Glory to God!

Thanks the Lord we could visit and help Francisco Argüelles González with food. He is the father of the inmate Yoennis. Francisco used to be an alcoholic, but to God's glory he was restored three years ago through our Chaplaincy Ministry. At present he is recovered, but the situation in his home is very unfavorable and he has cancer and metastasis. Francisco is assisted by his brother. His nephew is in prison too. This family is fruit of the work of the chaplaincy. God is always faithful!



Thanks to God's grace, we arrived at Ismael Gamboa Linares' house. He is raising his little grandson who is 2 years old, because his daughter (mother of the boy) is retarded. Ismael works driving a bike-taxi, but he cannot work now because he has inflammation in his leg. These people live in very difficult situations but God's hand reached this home to supply food and toiletries that are so important in this time of need.

Thanks to God's faithfulness we reached Eddy Suarez who is 56 years old. He was an alcoholic but he converted to the Lord one year and a half ago. His father is confined to bed and his mother has cancer in her head and as a consequence of that, she has damage in that part of the head. This woman lost two of her daughters. One was murdered by her husband and the other died in an accident. This family is grateful because a day before our visit one of the daughters had a dream, about some Christians coming to their home to pray for her mother. She also dreamt about the prayer that the chaplain made for her mother. We could also supply for their physical needs, considering the difficult situation they have. We all left that place grateful for the wonderful work of the Lord.

We thank the Lord for arriving at Ramón Matos Leyva's house who is a senior man and who is in charge of a 10-year-old child. The child's mother is under house arrest and she also has a disabled son, she has not seen him for 5 years because he is in the hospital in another province. This house suffered the impact of the past hurricane. Ramón thanked us because he did not have any money to buy food. We thank the Lord because He always arrives on time.

Thanks to God's help we could visit Maria Cardosa Leyva who is a senior woman and lives with her senior husband. Her son Leonides is an inmate. They do not receive the monthly ration food like all Cubans because they used to live in Santiago de Cuba and after they moved they have not received their documents for the ration. Consequently, they have several needs because they don't have any other help. They thanked God for His love shown through this help.

We also reached Dailenis Matos' home. She is an inmate's wife and she works as guard to sustain her children who are 1 and 3 years old. She lives with a lot of needs but the Lord listens and works. We gave her food and toiletries to help her with her little children. God is the best Father and He does not abandon them.

While taking the hope of the gospel, we visited Maria Elena Lobes Flores. She is the mother of an inmate, her son murdered his wife. Maria Elena lives alone and she is depressed and very mentally affected. When the chaplains arrived she was making sweet things to take to his son in prison because she has nothing else to give him. But thanks to God's mercy her needs were provided. She is grateful to the God of Heavens.

The Lord led us to Kenia Osorio's house. She has a 3-year-old child. Her husband Barbaro Juan is in



prison. She does not have an extended family and that is why, she sustains her home alone. However, she thanks the Lord for His help in proper time with the provisions brought by the chaplains. We provided her with the necessary help for her and her child to eat. God is good all the time!





We arrived at Caridad Frómata Lobaina's house as part of our mission of blessing others. Caridad is 78 years old and her husband is 81 and he has dementia. Both of them suffer from diabetes and she is very sick and semi-confined to bed. Their daughter assists them but she also has disabilities in her arms and legs, but she assists them anyway. The grandson that Caridad raised is in prison and the other is in intensive care unit with serious health problems for 4 years now. They only have a pension of 9 CUC. That day that we arrived to visit her she had cooked some peas to make a soup because that was everything they had to eat. Now it is a reality to them that God always takes care of His children and provides for their needs. (Ed. Note: A family of four needs 150 cuc's to live per month)



Thanks to God's grace we arrived at María Cristina López' house. Her husband is an alcoholic who gave profession of faith in an evangelization. We glorify the Lord because we are going to open a group of Living Free program with this family which is numerous. They are very grateful for this supplement of food and toiletries they were lacking. Jehovah Jireh, God provides. When we arrived to the house of the senior woman Juana Mile, her husband gave profession of faith. She is 84 years old. She has a disabled son and the other son is an ex inmate. They live alone and they are very grateful to the Lord because the day we visited them they just had 20 cents left and nothing to eat, but a piece of a vegetable a neighbor gave them. That day they experienced the way the Lord provides for His children's needs in the proper time. Glory to God!



We also arrived at Raymundo Delfino's house to provide him food and hygiene articles which are so necessary in these times. He is an ex alcoholic who converted to the Lord because his son was in prison. His son was assisted by the chaplains. As part of their work, the chaplains evangelized this father and they created a restoration group in his house with Living Free Program. He has been sober for two years and a half. The neighbors accepted Jesus too. Glory to God because He is the only one who can work the transformation in the hearts.

Thanks to God's guidance, we visited Leibis Londres Noa. She is Rolaidi's wife, an inmate. She has a 15-year-old daughter who is confined to bed and retarded as a consequence of a brain paralysis when she was an infant. We could pray for her and give her food and the hygiene articles they needed considering that their situation is very critical and they have no other support. They thanked the Lord because His hand reached them to bless them in the middle of this crisis.



BY FOCUSING ON ONE OPERATION, IN ONE COUNTRY, YOU GET A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO DO IN THE MIDST OF TREMENDOUS NEED THAT WE ARE OFTEN BLIND TO IN THIS COUNTRY. YOU ALSO GET TO SEE HOW GOD MOBILIZES HIS NATIONAL LEADERS TO DO HIS WORK. OUR JOB IS TO LOOK TO GOD'S PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY TO HELP EMPOWER THEM TO DO WHAT WE CANNOT. SO.... I AM ASKING YOU, AND PLEADING WITH YOU, TO SEE TO WHAT DEGREE GOD WANTS YOU TO HELP. IF YOU COULD HAVE PREVENTED THAT MOTHER FROM TAKING THE LIFE OF HER CHILDREN AND HER OWN LIFE WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE. CAN YOU PUT YOURSELF IN HER POSITION AND SEEN YOUR CHILDREN STARVING TO DEATH AND NOT BE ABLE TO HELP THEM—WHAT WOULD YOU DO? SO... WHAT DOES GOD WANT YOU TO DO? WE NEED ALL THE RESOURCES WE CAN GET TO HELP GOD'S FAMILY, OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CUBA. PLEASE PRAY AND GIVE AS GOD ENABLES YOU.... THANK YOU.

HABAKKUK 3:17-19 (NIV)

¹⁷Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,

¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.¹⁹The Sovereign Lord is my strength; He makes my feet like the feet of a deer, He enables me to tread on the heights.



Dry River Bed



Dry River Bed Sand



Mango Tree



Alix & Gertrude
Jean-Paul

HAITI/DOMINICAN REPUBLIC Generosity: We have experienced over the last 20 years the generosity of many during our mission work in Haiti and the last five years in Dominican Republic (DR). Because of this generosity, we were able to touch the lives of thousands of children, young people and many adults for the sake of Christ. We were able to facilitate the construction of five schools, seven churches, and two orphanages. Vacation Bible Schools have been the flagship of our ministry.

The generosity of two Christian couples has kept our school open in **DR**. Our fifty students and their parents are being supported by our four teachers in both education and food supplies during this challenging time.

The construction of the Sam I Am Center in Lechard, Northeast Haiti, is the greatest blessing brought about by the generosity of many. The Center has become a place to meet God, to serve God and to love God. The results are transforming communities as we are reaching out to children and young people with the True Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The above four pictures are examples of the transformative power of the Gospel. We have embraced the mission of Christ as it is expressed in Matthew 28. The children and those who come to the Center provide countless testimonies about how much they love to come to the Center to memorize Bible verses, to sing spiritual songs, to learn to sew, to paint and to play in a safe and respectful environment.

As we are being challenged by the Corona virus scare, Pastor Namphy and his team are trying their best to stay in contact with our community by providing food to 250 families over the last few months as a result of the generosity of many. Taking into account the socio-cultural markers, we have become creative in reaching out to our members while respecting their dignity. Twenty families are hired to collect sand and gravel in the dried bed of the river. They have been able to earn a day wage to take care of their families. Because of the frequent and destructive drought, the generosity of a Winnipeg couple has allowed us to drill two wells in the area. The first one has been providing clean drinking water for the last five years. The new one has made possible to plant 45 fruit trees and different short-term crops to feed our communities. About 25 new households have access now to clean drinking water. Let us praise the Lord!

Heart of the City

Besides the importance of praying for this ministry to prostitutes and homeless in Winnipeg and the teams that go out we need to raise a minimum of \$12,000 or a \$1000/mo to operate. Could you ask God if He wants you to support this ministry on a monthly basis? *You can use the card to create an automatic monthly withdrawal to make it easier for you.*

We need:

4 people to give \$100 / month= \$ 400

8 people to give \$50 / month= 400

16 people to give \$25/month= 400

What Does God want YOU to Do?



40th Anniversary Bar-B-Q

SEPTEMBER 17TH 2020

A CELEBRATION OF PRAISE

Prayer & Finances: As you read and pray through this *Special Report* the overwhelming sense is that we need God's intervention in so many ways. Missing from this report is what God is helping us do in Ethiopia, Togo, Honduras, Guatemala and here in Winnipeg. Individually we can do something and together we can do much. Ask God to take your prayers and your gifts to His Work to bless and multiply.

**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

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

