

Ministry Update # 2-2021

February 25, 2021

Dear Friends of Cuba and Latin America,

COVID-19 forced Cuba to close its airports in March, 2020 and now, 11 months later, there is still no tourism to support the economy. Cuba's wonderful warm water beaches attract 5 million tourists a year from Canada, Europe and South America, but the loss of this primary source of income has resulted in massive unemployment for hotels, restaurants, gift shops and taxis. Even worse, without the income from tourists, the Cuban government has almost no hard currency with which to buy food from other countries to feed its population of 11 million people. Neighborhood grocery stores have empty shelves, and when they do receive one or two items to sell, people swarm to the stores and wait up to 8 hours to get in. Too often there is nothing left to buy when their turn comes,

Over half of our 150 Nazarene churches have been closed due to a new explosion of COVID-19 in the past two months. After using strict quarantines and masks to bring new cases down to only 30 per day in the entire island, holiday visitors and social gatherings have resulted in over 800 new cases per day. Meetings in private homes are prohibited, and pastors are ministering to their congregations by cell phone. With no services, there are no offerings, and pastors of closed churches have no salary with which to feed their families. Even with money, single parents, the elderly and sick people can not stand in line for hours to buy food. On the West District, which includes Havana, here are 1370 Nazarenes age 60+ in our 66 churches. Many pastors and Nazarene laymen have very little to eat.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP THEM???



Waiting to buy soap.



Waiting to buy a bottle of cooking oil



Waiting in Old Havana to buy crackers

Jesus said: **“You give them something to eat!”** (Matthew 14:16)

Jesus was instructing his disciples concerning the physical needs of 5,000 men, plus women and children, that had gathered on remote hillsides to hear Him teach and heal their sick. Today, many of our Nazarenes in Cuba are hungry and unable to feed their families. There is literally nothing to buy!!
HOW CAN WE HELP THEM?

God has provided a way!! In the next 6 weeks a container will be sent to Cuba carrying the desks, chairs, file cabinets and other furniture for the new Nazarene National Office in Havana, because standard office furniture is not available in Cuba. By contracting for a 40-foot container instead of a 20-foot, there will be plenty of room for enough food to help over 1,000 Nazarene families, including 81 pastors. We propose to send them rice, pinto and black beans, canned tuna and chicken, spaghetti and sauce, and cooking oil. We can buy these items at restaurant supply prices already boxed for shipment. The cost comes to \$40 per family...**that's \$40,000 to feed 1,000 families for a month.**

Just as Jesus took the boy's 5 barley loaves and 2 small fishes and multiplied them to feed many thousands, He can take our collective donations and multiply them to meet this need in Cuba. The boy gave his entire lunch to Jesus, but then he ate from the baskets full of miraculous provision. You have no doubt heard the saying: "You cannot outgive God!" **IT'S TRUE!!** If we will make a sacrificial gift to feed our brethren in Cuba, God will make sure that our personal needs are met. Bernice and I invite you to join us in giving our "sack lunch" to Jesus so He can feed our hungry Nazarenes in Cuba.

- + Make your check payable to **"GPCCN"**, or you can write out **"Grace Pointe Community Church of the Nazarene"**.
- + On the "memo" line of your check, write **"Food Shipment"**
- + Mail your check to me at: **Robert Prescott, 2416 Fox Creek Lane, Davidsonville, MD 21035**
- + I will deliver your check to our Church Treasurer and he will give me the money to buy the food. These donations are tax deductible.

THANK YOU SO MUCH for caring and sharing in 2021.

Yours for HIM...

Bob Prescott