



In the News...Religious Freedom in Cuba

April, 2016

Dear partners of God's mission in Cuba,

I usually don't use this forum to report on news items, but these last 30 days have been spectacular: First, by now you probably know that President Barack Obama's visited Cuba on March 20, becoming the first sitting U.S. president in 88 years to do so and marking a major step toward building a relationship with the communist island nation. During his speech, broadcast live throughout the island, the president emphasized the importance of human rights, including religious freedom.

In the U.S. Congress, Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla stated that he was concerned "by Cuba's lack of attention to protecting religious liberty and human rights," he added that he encouraged the Administration to use the new relationship to encourage the Cuban government to respect the religious liberty and human rights of their citizens.

During the last 30 days there were many other articles, speeches and demonstrations from religious leaders, Christian organizations and prominent individuals dealing with the issue of religious liberties in Cuba.

After 22 years advocating for faith and freedoms in Cuba we welcome this interest from the media, churches and ministries in the U.S.A.

There is no debate over whether or not the North American Christian agencies, churches and individuals will have a role to play in the future in Cuba, and we anticipate that they will be a source of positive change. But the American Church needs to be very circumspect and diligent in how they choose to serve the Cuban church and must take some time to understand the specific circumstances of the church in Cuba. Learning about the complex challenges the church in Cuba faces will prevent misunderstandings and generate more beneficial outcomes.

I want to again thank you for expressing your love and concern through your faithful support of all our programs. Because of you, we are able to offer thousands of lost and hurting people in Cuba with what they desperately need: the love of Jesus.

Please remember to send your confidential prayer requests to Mary@echocuba.org. We consider it an honor to prayerfully intercede on your behalf.

Grace, peace, and love be yours in abundance,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teo A. Babun, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Teo A. Babun, Jr.
Chairman