

## House Church Explosion in Cuba

August, 2016

Dear partners of God's mission in Cuba,



In 1959 Cuba moved from a dictatorship to socialism. Churches were closed and missionaries were deported. In 1965, the majority of the pastors were imprisoned and a large number of seminary students and young church leaders put in re-education camps. The oppression drove the evangelical church underground.

But the hardships and suffering have paved the way for an explosion of Church planting. Space is the biggest challenge for many churches. Under current government rules they typically cannot buy land or expand. In the past 20 years, more than 40,000 home churches (Casas Culto) have opened their doors. A typical House Church houses 12 persons, but it is not unusual to find one with 80 or even 100 persons!

Cuban Church leaders say events led by the fall of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s sparked the current Church planting explosion. The people were going through a very hard time called "special period" and people started looking to churches for hope. The government was still reticent to allow construction of new church buildings and suggested that the believers meet in homes. The casual suggestion sparked a House Church movement that many have compared to Church history recorded in the book of Acts.

People throughout the country are opening the doors of their homes to reach their neighbors with the Gospel. God is using government restrictions on church buildings to bring people to Himself. We pray that the church in Cuba will continue to grow.

### Save-The-Date

On Tuesday, November 2nd in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla, EchoCuba will team-up with The National Christian Foundation, Calvary Chapel's Church United, OneHope, and others to conduct "**The Cuba Ministry Symposium**"; *Calling Churches Together To Do The Right Thing in Cuba*. The symposium will bring together churches and ministries to learn from each-other and to strategize on next steps to reach Cuba. During the symposium we will listen to experts in the social and spiritual issues that Cuba faces. The love of Jesus Christ compels us to do this! We will send you more information as it becomes available, but for now please save-the-date.

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](mailto:Mary@echocuba.org). We consider it an honor to prayerfully intercede on your behalf.

Grace, peace, and love be yours in abundance,

**Dr. Teo A. Babun, Jr.**  
Chairman