



Christian Leaders Wait for the Pope

September, 2015

Dear partners of God's mission in Cuba,

As I mentioned in my last letter, the Cuban evangelical church will have an opportunity to use this week's visit by Pope Francis' visit to leverage new opportunities to expand religious expression. When the pope goes to Cuba later this week, he will have a larger-than-usual influence over the Cuban government since he has always been sympathetic to Fidel Castro, the Cuban system, and is now receiving credit for brokering the beginning of the U.S.-Cuba normalization talks.

EchoCuba is helping Protestant leaders craft a strategy on how to approach the government to leverage the pope's visit. The project focuses on helping Christian leaders deal with the forces, political shift and other changes that are taking place after more than 50 years of total government control of all aspects of society. The new changes open vast possibilities for transformation. We believe that the Church in general will play a vital role in this historical transition. We are starting by having meetings with the leaders of each of the Protestant denominations and the theological seminaries to discuss among other:

- Creating adequate safeguards and obtain knowledge about what occurred in Eastern Europe post the fall of the soviet bloc ,
- Securing practical boundaries to guard against the influence of cults and assure that God's Word is not compromised,
- Maximizing their capacity to deal with an existing crisis of morals and values in Cuba's civil society,
- Improving their ability to share the Gospel of Christ outside the walls of church buildings,
- Capitalizing on the changes to gain more religious space to increase pastor's and lay leader's theological education and training, and
- Emerging from the period as one new, independent, holy, and passionate church for Jesus Christ.

We absolutely now need your prayer support and encouragement more than ever before in our 20 year history of ministering in the Island to help us accomplish the goals. Pray that God would use our unique and privileged leadership role to help unify the Christian evangelical church in Cuba.

Thank you for expressing your love and concern through your support. Because of you, we are able to offer thousands of lost and hurting people in Cuba what they desperately need: the love of Jesus. And please keep in mind that we consider it an honor to prayerfully intercede on your behalf, so don't hesitate to let us know how we can be praying for you.

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

EchoCuba is a ministry of Outreach Aid to the Americas, Inc.