

Our Love Letter to You

June, 2017

DO NO HARM

Greetings and Blessings to all of you!

On June 16, 2017, President Donald J. Trump unveiled a new U.S. policy toward Cuba. But since President Obama's December 2014 announcement that the U.S. was charting a new course with Cuba, a large number of North American churches and ministries have found their way to Cuba to expand their foreign missions activities. This is good, but this also has opened the door to doing harm to the evolving and vulnerable church in Cuba.

Already American churches are showing up in Havana with the promise of millions of dollars to enter into "relationship" with them. Many church leaders have expressed the fragmentation they are experiencing as some of their weaker leadership has bent to aggressive American personalities with their own theological and methodological agendas.

EchoCuba wants to help. In over twenty-three years of experience working with Cuban churches and seminaries, EchoCuba has learned that Cuba is a very challenging field for missionary activities. While Cuban Evangelicals will welcome you warmly, and conditions for missionary work have been moving in a positive direction, do not expect everything to have changed overnight. Important legal parameters must be honored, and complex social and interpersonal issues need to be respected. Deepening your understanding of these issues, as well as listening carefully and speaking thoughtfully and respectfully, will help you avoid regrettable missteps and allow God's work to unfold in His infinite grace.

In summary, we need to be very careful in our mission's response at this critical moment in Cuban church history. It must be informed. In other words, we need to enter God's narrative for what He is doing in His Church in Cuba and not project and prescribe our plans and agendas. We need to prayerfully and carefully discern from the Holy Spirit and listen to the Cuban Church and its leadership about how, if at all, we can or should be involved.

Every week our staff meets to pray and uplift the ministry's program activities to God, blessing organizational needs, partners, donors, and advocates. A discussion based on a weekly devotional follows, inspiring the staff to reflect on Jesus Christ. Our desire is to focus on Christ in all our decision making and character development. This ministry is His ministry: He knows what is best for us. We humbly submit to his Lordship and authority as he submitted to His Heavenly Father (Matt. 22:42).

May God's blessings, guidance, protection, and His presence be yours in abundance!



Dr. Teo A. Babun, Jr.
President & CEO

Our strength is in the trust we have earned over the last 23 years.