

RECENT UPDATES FROM CUBA

AUGUST 2024

SERVING THE VULNERABLE, GIFTING HOPE

In the midst of Cuba's ongoing economic struggles, where basic necessities are often scarce, the work of ImpactHope's ministry partners has become a lifeline for some of society's most vulnerable members. Children, women, and seniors, already facing immense hardships, have been particularly impacted by the economic crisis.

Through food distribution programs, educational support, and spiritual outreach, the ministry has made a profound difference in the lives of countless individuals. Vulnerable children are receiving not only the food they need to grow and thrive but also the spiritual guidance that helps them navigate these difficult times. Women, many of whom are single mothers or caretakers, find solace in the support provided, while seniors, who often face the harshest realities of the economic downturn, are receiving the care and assistance that helps them maintain their dignity and well-being.

This report highlights the ongoing initiatives, the challenges faced, and the remarkable stories of transformation made possible through your generous support. As you read through these updates, we hope you feel encouraged by the tangible difference you are making in the lives of so many in Cuba.



Your support is transforming lives amid economic hardship.

Camaguey

In Camaguey, the ministry continues to make a profound impact on both the children and the broader community. The efforts led by pastors Gersy del Toro and Yamilet Rodriguez, who serve as bishops in the Assemblies of God in Camaguey, have been instrumental in this work. They oversee a church of approximately 150 members and are responsible for 15 additional churches throughout the northern region of the province. Despite their extensive responsibilities, they face significant financial challenges in carrying out their ministry, especially in hosting children's clubs and evangelistic events in rural areas.

Children's Ministry:

- **Event Highlights:** Between June and July, six impactful children's activities were organized, with one more planned for the end of August. These events were held in some of the most impoverished and vulnerable areas of Camaguey.
- **Attendance:** Approximately 368 children participated, along with many adults, primarily mothers. These events have become a beacon of hope for the community, bringing joy, nourishment, and spiritual growth.
- **Outreach:** With the support of pastors, teachers, and volunteers, these activities have not only provided physical sustenance but also spread the word of God, enriching the spiritual lives of the children and their families.

Supporting Families in Need

The ministry also extends its reach to support struggling families, including young parents and seniors. An elderly couple, Jesús Reyes and Roselia Palomino, are among those who have been profoundly touched by the ministry's efforts. Living on a meager government pension in a humble home with a dirt floor, they have many needs but remain faithful to the Lord. The assistance they receive from the ministry is a lifeline, often making the difference between having food to eat or going without. Their story is one of many that highlight the vital role that the ministry plays in providing relief and hope to the most vulnerable in Camaguey.



In Palma Soriano, the ministry continues to provide crucial support to families in need, especially amidst the dire economic conditions in Cuba.

- **Vacation Bible School (VBS):** Last month, a four-day Vacation Bible School (VBS) was held, with an average of **300 children** attending each day. The children received spiritual teachings and enjoyed breakfast and snacks, making the experience both nourishing and enriching.
- **Food Distribution:** In addition to the VBS, five food packages were distributed each month to needy families in June and July. These packages are a lifeline for many who are struggling with food shortages.
- **Ongoing Support:** Over the course of this year, the ministry has helped families with bags of food and medicine, addressing immediate needs in the face of a critical economic situation.
- **Local Outreach:** Every Wednesday, food is provide to 12 people living near the Jorge and Sandra’s house, along with messages of faith and hope.

Finding Hope and Nourishment

Yesdeiker is a 42-year-old man who is wheelchair-bound due to a severe health condition. He lives with his 70-year-old father, who has faced tremendous hardship. The family’s story is marked by profound loss; Yesdeiker’s sister passed away at just 18 from leukemia, and years later, their mother also died. Since then, his father has been unable to work due to the need to care for Yesdeiker full-time. Yesdeiker’s father is also struggling with severe health issues, including possible cancer, which further complicates their situation.

Their situation is dire, with the state providing only a small monthly stipend, insufficient to meet their basic needs. Thankfully, through the support of the Impacto de Esperanza ministry and the generosity of others, they receive essential food supplies each month. This aid allows them to purchase vital items such as rice, chicken, beans, oil, and vegetables, which make a significant difference in their daily lives.

Jorge and Sandra recently reached out to Karel and Mailen’s family in Cuba, who have three young children—Christofer, Helen, and a newborn. The family has been struggling with high food prices and scarcity, making it difficult to provide enough nourishment for everyone. Despite these challenges, Karel and Mailen continue to serve their church with joy. When they received food support from ImpactHope, they were incredibly grateful and thanked God for His care and the support they received.



Thank you for supporting vulnerable people like Yesdeiker.



Karel and Mailen’s family

Praise Points

- Thank God for the successful children’s activities in Camaguey and Palma Soriano.
- Thank God for the ongoing provision of food and spiritual nourishment to the community.

Prayer Points

- Pray for the health and safety of the ministry workers and the communities they serve.
- Pray for continued support and resources to sustain these vital programs.



We need your help to support the most vulnerable in Cuba?

The ongoing support from donors is vital for sustaining these efforts. The families who receive help through ImpactHope’s ministry in Camaguey are deeply grateful. **For some, the assistance they receive is the only way they can feed their families for the month.** Your contributions help provide essential food and spiritual support to families struggling in the midst of economic hardship. By donating, you are directly impacting lives and sharing hope with those who need it most. Please consider making a donation today to support the ongoing ministry in Cuba.