



# God is Working in Cuba

*Strengthening relationships and building bridges while sharing the Good News*

Quarterly Newsletter: July 2020

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Welcome to the first edition of the Armando Rusindo Mission Foundation (ARMF) Newsletter. This newsletter will be published quarterly to keep you up to date with the news of our Moravian brothers and sisters in Cuba.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*Submitted by Joe Jarvis, President/Founder*

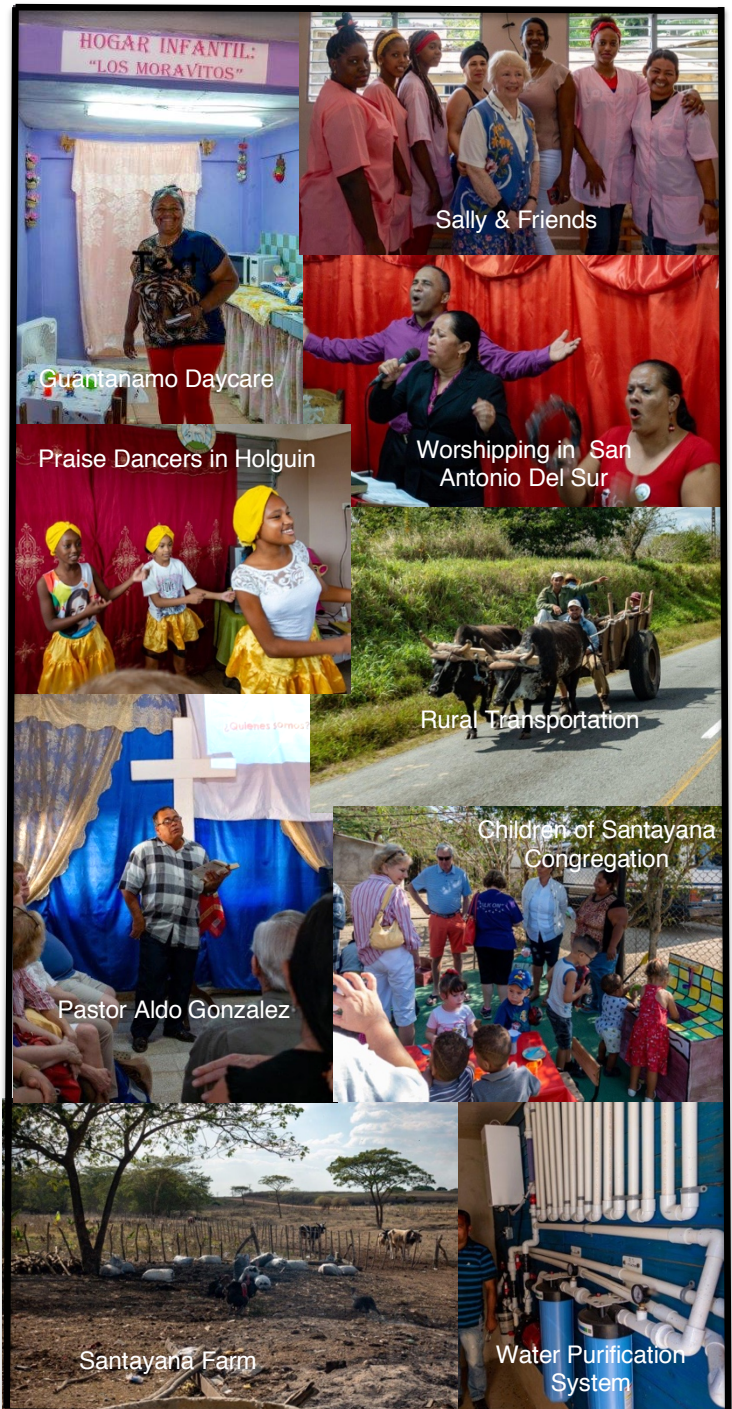
### COVID-19

Even with the current situation of COVID-19, the ARMF has been busy working along with our brothers and sisters in Cuba. The official report in early June from Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel declared COVID-19 as "under control in the country" of some 11 million people. As of this writing the only case of COVID-19 within the Moravian church was a member of the Jaguey Grande congregation. Oslaydia, was pregnant at the time she was diagnosed, while in the hospital she gave birth to a beautiful girl 'Rosa Amely'. Praise be to God both are together and doing well.

### JANURARY VISIT

Before the virus began to spread, members of the ARMF accompanied a group of supporters from the Winston Salem area to visit Moravian congregations across Cuba for two weeks in late January and early February. There are about 18 vibrant and growing congregations, with a total of 1,200 – 1,300 people in attendance.

This group traveled some 1,400 miles from Habana to Guantanamo and back. They had the opportunity to visit many of the churches in the country as well as the sites of several projects supported by the ARMF. This included visits to farms, daycare centers, water purification systems and more. Worshipping at five or six churches along the way made the trip even more of a rewarding time together. The travelers included Pastor Matthew Allen of Olivet Moravian who gave the message in the Guantanamo and Holguin churches. We thank him for providing a wonderful sermon.





## SHIPMENT GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

Thanks to United Servants Abroad (USA) the ARMF was able to ship two large pallets (1,500 lbs.) of supplies to be distributed amongst the Moravian Churches in Cuba. Items to be distributed included bicycles, sewing machines, art supplies, Christian education materials, personal hygiene items, printer and ink, clothing, musical instruments, jewelry, baby blankets, stuffed animals, disposal gloves, blood pressure cuffs, and of course Moravian Stars.



The container arrived safely in Habana the last week of March and cleared customs within a week without any problems. With the shutdown and a travel ban, USA formulated a plan to unload with the assistance of their staff. It took three days to complete the unloading process due to the huge volume of goods. Our items were held in a

secure location by them in the province of Matanzas until Pastor Obed of the Jaguey Grande church was able to take possession. With much needed assistance provided by Nilo and his truck, the items were later delivered to a secure warehouse in Jaguey until a good time could be found to distribute the items to other churches.



On June 30, church leaders from across Cuba met in Jaguey Grande to unpack and allocate the supplies sent by the ARMF. Pastor Aldo and his family traveled five to six hours from their home in Camaguey to meet up with President Tania Sanchez and her husband who drove two and a half hours from Habana. They, along with Pastors Obed and Alay, as well as members of the church in

Jaguey, spent most of the day sorting all the materials in the hot, humid Cuban climate. It must have been tiresome, but well worth the effort. By day's end all was sorted and ready to be delivered to the designated churches.

Pastor Tania and her husband, carried items back to Havana and Pastor Aldo to Camaguey. Goods for Holguin and Guantanamo will be stored in Camaguey until Pastor Aldo gets a truck to deliver to them.



Many thanks go out to all the people who helped make this project a success, not only our friends in Cuba but our valued donors worldwide as well.

Thank you to all our valued friends for your continued prayers and financial support.





## ROCA FUERTE MORAVIAN CHURCH

*Submitted by Ron Vogler, Director*

The Roca Fuerte Moravian church is located just beyond the seaside village of San Antonio del Sur, which is about 45 minutes east of Guantanamo Bay Naval Base. This part of Cuba is poorer than the rest of the country with a mostly agricultural economy in an arid area having replaced nickel mining.

The pastor, Yoennis Suarez Fernandez, also serves as secretary for the Moravian Church in Cuba. Pastor Yoennis ministers to about 120 people who come to this church which is a thatched leaf roof pavilion built on a concrete pad. In addition to Roca Fuerte, he oversees two other churches in the province as well as supervising a couple of missionaries who are building relationships in other areas. Pastor Yoennis currently reaches out to approximately 300 people in the province of Guantanamo.

Many people walk miles to attend church which is held into the late evening most weeks. The roads are narrow, dark, and dangerous. Pastor Yoennis asked the foundation to help by getting a horse and wagon to carry these people who walk the long distances. ARMF was pleased to grant this request knowing of the importance it would play in providing a means of travel to the congregation. During times it is not used by the church as a “bus”, Yoennis takes it into town to use as a taxi providing funds for the church and covering the cost of feeding and caring for the horses.



Yoennis also farms about four acres of land, raising several crops including plantains, corn, onions, and tomatoes. These crops provide food not only for his family and church members, but excess is sold to the markets and community providing extra income supporting the church.

Food conditions San Antonio del Sur have gotten much more difficult with the spread of the Coronavirus. People camp overnight with the hopes of being the first at the markets only to find little to no food to purchase at inflated prices.

Pastor Yoennis applied for and was awarded a grant from the ARMF to purchase two pigs and bananas to feed the people of his congregation. The meat was placed into plastic bags and along with the bananas and delivered to some forty families.



Another huge need in the community, as in much of Cuba, is clean water. The supply well is at the bottom of the hillside with many septic systems close by. We are working with United Services Abroad to buy and install a water purification system where people can come to the church and receive purified safe water. This project should get underway as the country becomes open for us to transport supplies.

Guantanamo being located some 500 miles from Habana makes it a difficult place to visit. The Moravian churches there are doing a great job of spreading the gospel of Christ and sharing His love to all.

To support the ARMF in continuing this important work alongside our Moravian brothers and sisters in Cuba, cheques can be mailed to

**ARMF**  
**2121 Harper Road, Clemmons,**  
**NC 27012**

Or donate online at: [www.armfcuba.org/donate.html](http://www.armfcuba.org/donate.html)

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. 1 Corinthians*