

cuba

MISSION RECAP

MARCH 2020



MARK 10:45



FOR EVEN THE SON OF MAN DID NOT
COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE,
AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM
FOR MANY.



The missionary heart:

Care more than some think is wise.

Risk more than some think is safe.

Dream more than some think is practical.

Expect more than some think is possible.

I was called not to comfort or success but to obedience.

There is no joy outside of knowing Jesus and serving Him.

KAREN WATSON

UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE SEES MANY COME TO CHRIST

JANICE COUTAIN

I had no idea that I would have such an unforgettable experience in Cuba. This was my first mission trip. I wasn't prepared. I thought it would be easy. It wasn't easy at all. I had no idea what I was doing. Yet out of 13 people we shared the Gospel with 11 people accepted Jesus to be their Savior. God was truly in the midst of everything. I know I will not be the same.

This mission trip to Cuba was like nothing I could have imagined. I will never forget the love and compassion of the people I met. I felt welcomed in the homes I visited, the warm smiles, and the warmth of the people. To see the concern they had for their neighbor was surreal. I was invited in homes not as a stranger, but as a friend and I was very comfortable in the presence of people I didn't know. I saw people loving and caring about each other. People were so comfortable being themselves; I didn't feel any fakeness in them. The Cuban people are so beautiful in my eyes.

The people we visited opened their homes with kindness, lovingly and with a warm smile. The families we visited looked forward to hearing the Good News about Jesus Christ. I was a little nervous and I was unprepared but I had an experienced interpreter named Natalia. When I messed up she seemed to know what to do.

When I returned to the U.S. I felt sad. To know that here in the U.S. we are free to carry Bibles in public, worship freely, talk publicly about Jesus, yet that is not so in Cuba. It breaks my heart.



HERE WE ARE HAVING DINNER AT THE CHURCH. BEAUTIFUL TIME OF FELLOWSHIP.





MY CHURCH WORKER WAS VERY DEDICATED TO GOD AND SHE REALLY LOVED THE LORD. SHE SHARED WITH EACH HOUSEHOLD ABOUT JESUS CHRIST AS WELL. THIS IS ANOTHER FAMILY THAT WAS READY TO TRUST IN JESUS. THEY ACCEPTED JESUS WITH JOY.

THIS IS A PICTURE OF NATALIA, MYSELF, MY CHURCH WORKER AND MY CHURCH WORKER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW. THE MOTHER-IN-LAW ACCEPTED CHRIST. I HAD A GREAT INTERPRETER AND CHURCH WORKER. BOTH WERE EXPERIENCED AND GOD DIRECTED, WE JUST FOLLOWED.



THIS IS A FAMILY WHO WAS EXCITED ABOUT THE GOOD NEWS THAT WE SHARED WITH THEM. THE FAMILY ACCEPTED CHRIST AS THEIR SAVIOR. WE PRAYED FOR THE FAMILY. THE LITTLE BOY IS 6-YEARS-OLD AND ON DIALYSIS. AWESOME FAMILY, VERY KIND AND HOSPITABLE.

THE BEAUTIFUL LADY SITTING DOWN LOST HER HUSBAND NOT LONG AGO. SHE ACCEPTED JESUS AS HER SAVIOR, INCLUDING THE DAUGHTER AND A NEIGHBOR THAT WAS VISITING. PRAISE GOD!





BEAUTIFUL SPIRIT OF BLIND, DOUBLE AMPUTEE IS A BLESSING

YESENIA ASCENCIO-SMITH

Ernesto is in his 70's, lives with his son, is blind, wheelchair bound due to being a double amputee and has a contagious smile.

Ernesto blessed me with his beautiful spirit.

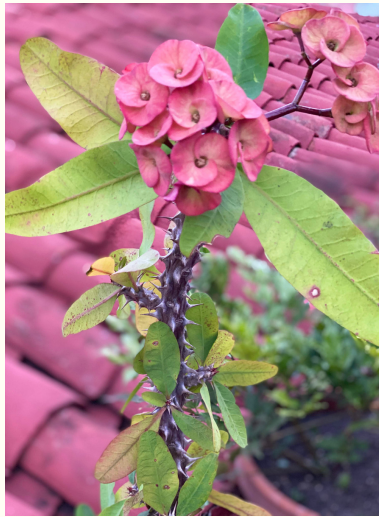
He was expecting us and patiently waiting on his front porch for about two hours. We had to stop at his

neighbor's home first. Once we got to his home he immediately invited us in with open arms. We started talking about God's love and grace. I shared my testimony and went through the EvangeCube. Ernesto immediately expressed his love for Jesus and that he hasn't been able to attend church due to his disability. Ernesto accepted Jesus again

and was open to allow the church to hold fellowship in his home. Ernesto was so positive and faithful about his life and gives all credit to our Lord.

God is so good!

It was a true blessing to be part of the Cuba mission trip!



STEPPING OUT ON FAITH LEADS TO AMAZING REWARDS

MIGUEL SILVA



01

Church worker and daughter

I had the opportunity to work with a longtime member of the church in Sibanicu. He was an older gentleman who had to use a crutch to get around; however, that did not slow him down. Most of the time, we had a hard time keeping up with him!

He worked in the church and had the fire of the Lord in him! The first home we went to (unknowingly to me) was his own daughter. She welcomed us in and greeted everyone like they were also family. She accepted Christ and her father was over-joyed!

After we left is when I found out that it was his daughter who we shared the Gospel with. He'd been evangelizing to her for some time, but she had not wanted to hear what he had to say about God. We were the final seed planted and she came to know the Lord that day!

Later in the week, I saw him again. He told me that she was still so happy and excited to be able to share something so special with him and couldn't wait to learn more.

02

God created the universe

On Monday during our time in the field, I met a man who was in his mid 80's. Originally we were supposed to be meeting with his wife and not him, but since she wasn't home, he did not want to turn us away. He invited us in to share anyway and I know without a doubt that this was all the Lord's work.

I got to know him very quickly and could tell that he was a simple village man who had worked hard his whole life.

The Lord moved in him like I've never seen before. In my first words I told him that the Lord created the heavens and earth. It blew his mind! He never once had been told that God created everything!

He also accepted Christ after hearing the whole message. This man opened my eyes to know that there are people who don't even know there is a God or who Jesus is. They've seen photos, but have no idea He is the creator of the Universe! It was an amazing experience to share with him.

03

Faithful pastor

I had the privilege of working with the pastor of a small town in Marti. The population

mostly practices a religion called santeria. Santeria is a religion that mixes Catholicism and voodoo. The small house church has had a hard time reaching the people there due to the people's traditions. They sent a new pastor about a year ago and his



faithfulness has turned things around! He has put in so much to the community and a large number of people have come to Christ!

When we walked around the neighborhood, everybody greeted him and would ask for his prayers. Many of these people he told me would eventually allow him to share the Gospel. Every house we visited accepted Christ!

They all had a peace when we left and I know it came from God and His work through this young pastor. His family is in full support of the ministry and I look forward to seeing what God will continue to do through him!



04

Cuba team

This was my first year leading a team to Cuba alongside Monique. She and I went to Cuba for the first time in May 2019 - not knowing that God would call us to this ministry. We both stepped out on faith to a country where it is difficult to even talk about Jesus. When we began planning this journey again in December with our team,



I did not realize how amazing and rewarding leading would be! There were moments when I doubted myself and was worried that everything would be a disaster. But of course, God through His infinite knowledge always had this trip in His hands. I truly believe He handpicked every person on our team! Each person brought something unique to the group and made it such a special trip. We had a lot of obstacles before, during, and after the trip. From car crashes to a house catching fire, God showed up every time! I'm proud of each team member and I look forward to serving with them again! TIC!



WILLIAM CAREY

Expect
great things
from God;
attempt great
things for God.

who is called the father of modern missions

MOTHERS' ACCEPTANCE OF CHRIST SET TO CHANGE FUTURE GENERATIONS

JULIE GRAY

My trip to Cuba opened my eyes in so many ways. My biggest takeaway, however, was the unity between the church workers, the interpreters and our team. Our collective love of God and His people was very evident.

For the families that I was blessed to minister to, the one that sticks out the most is a mother and her adult daughter who both accepted Christ. When talking to the mom, I realized in that moment how her accepting Christ has the ability to

change many generations to come.

Her adult daughter who also accepted Christ, was able to see how worshiping idols was much different than worshiping Jesus. She teared up when we were talking about that. She has two teenage sons and I was able to explain to her how her decision was going to trickle down to them and has the ability to change generations. Her heart was filled with joy as evidenced by the welling up of tears in her eyes and the understanding that I witnessed.







KAMISHA DUMAS

PRAYER REMOVES WORRY AND LEADS TO GOD'S PRESENCE

What an experience!!! I was truly amazed and nervous to attend this trip. Not only was it a covert operation, it was telling the raw Gospel. I have done mission trips before. I love the Lord. I testify about His greatness. But I have never witnessed using the raw Gospel. My nerves were a wreck.


I wanted to do His work, I wanted to save souls, I wanted everything to go just right. Day one of the actual mission, for me, was a



success for the Kingdom, but a failure for me. I was so worried about how I was going to present the Gospel, saying the right things, being able to answer hard questions, how they were perceiving me, that I missed out on having a true connection with them.

As I listened to my fellow teammates tell about their experiences, I knew I had some changes to make. That night I PRAYED. I prayed that God remove all of me, and use my body, my mind, my soul to witness to the people.

The next day was nothing less than HOLY. Each home I entered I felt God's presence. Each



family I spoke to seemed to feel my passion for Christ and wanted that same relationship. They had questions, I answered. They had prayer requests, I prayed. They had fear, I showed them the way to peace. Even on day one, every person I spoke with either accepted Christ as their Savior or recommitted their lives.

I AM BLESSED
TO BE USED BY GOD
FOR SUCH AN
IMPORTANT TASK.

**WHAT A
MISSION!**

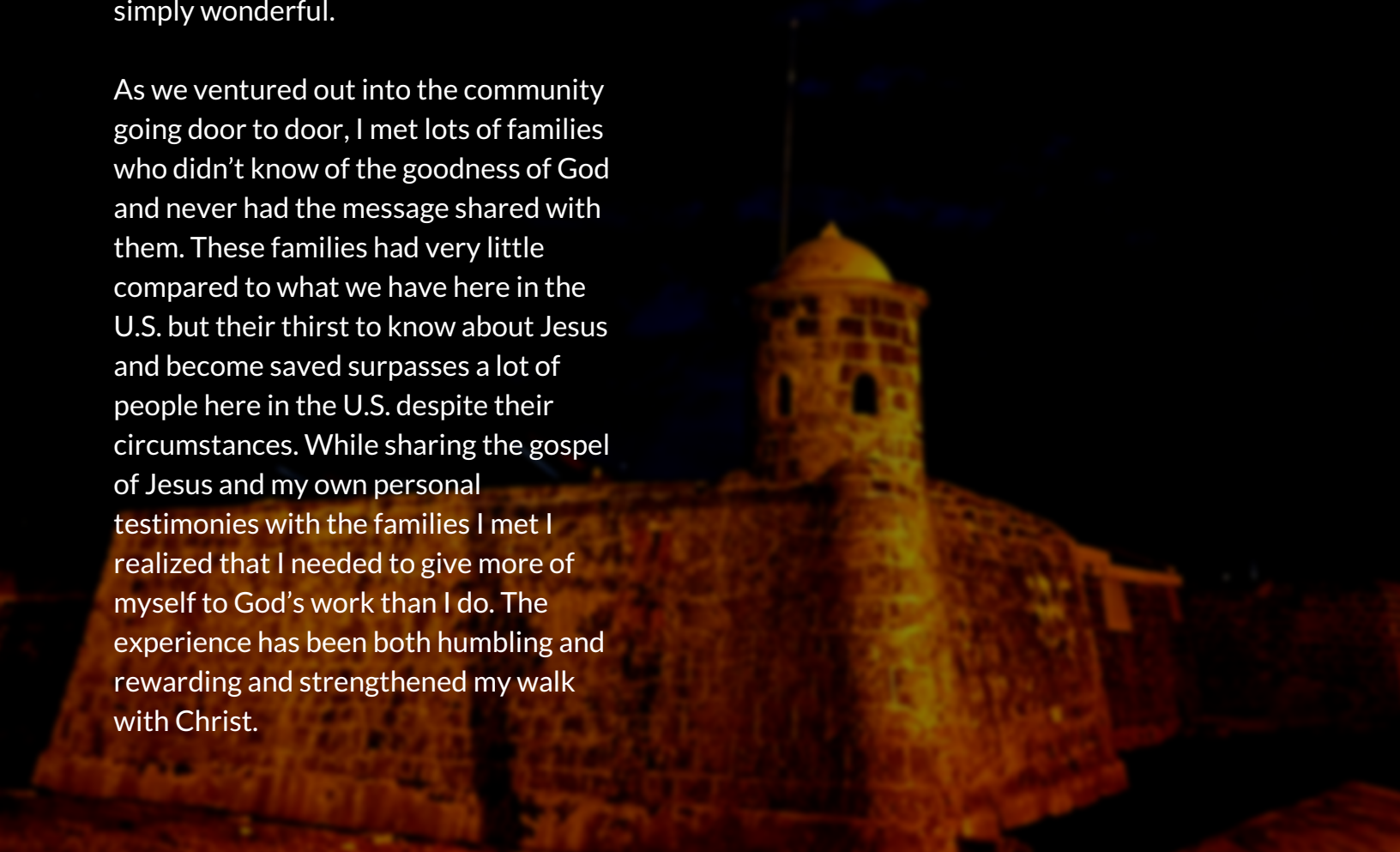
LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

RONALD BUCKLEY

On our first day of mission work after arriving in Camaguey, Cuba, anticipation and expectation could not start to explain the affect that this opportunity had on me and my walk with Christ. Our team traveled to the town of Sibanicu to meet with the mission team there and meet our interpreters and guides. The fellowship with our Cuban team was simply wonderful.

As we ventured out into the community going door to door, I met lots of families who didn't know of the goodness of God and never had the message shared with them. These families had very little compared to what we have here in the U.S. but their thirst to know about Jesus and become saved surpasses a lot of people here in the U.S. despite their circumstances. While sharing the gospel of Jesus and my own personal testimonies with the families I met I realized that I needed to give more of myself to God's work than I do. The experience has been both humbling and rewarding and strengthened my walk with Christ.

*God's Word:
It was amazing
seeing what faith
in the Word of God
can do!*



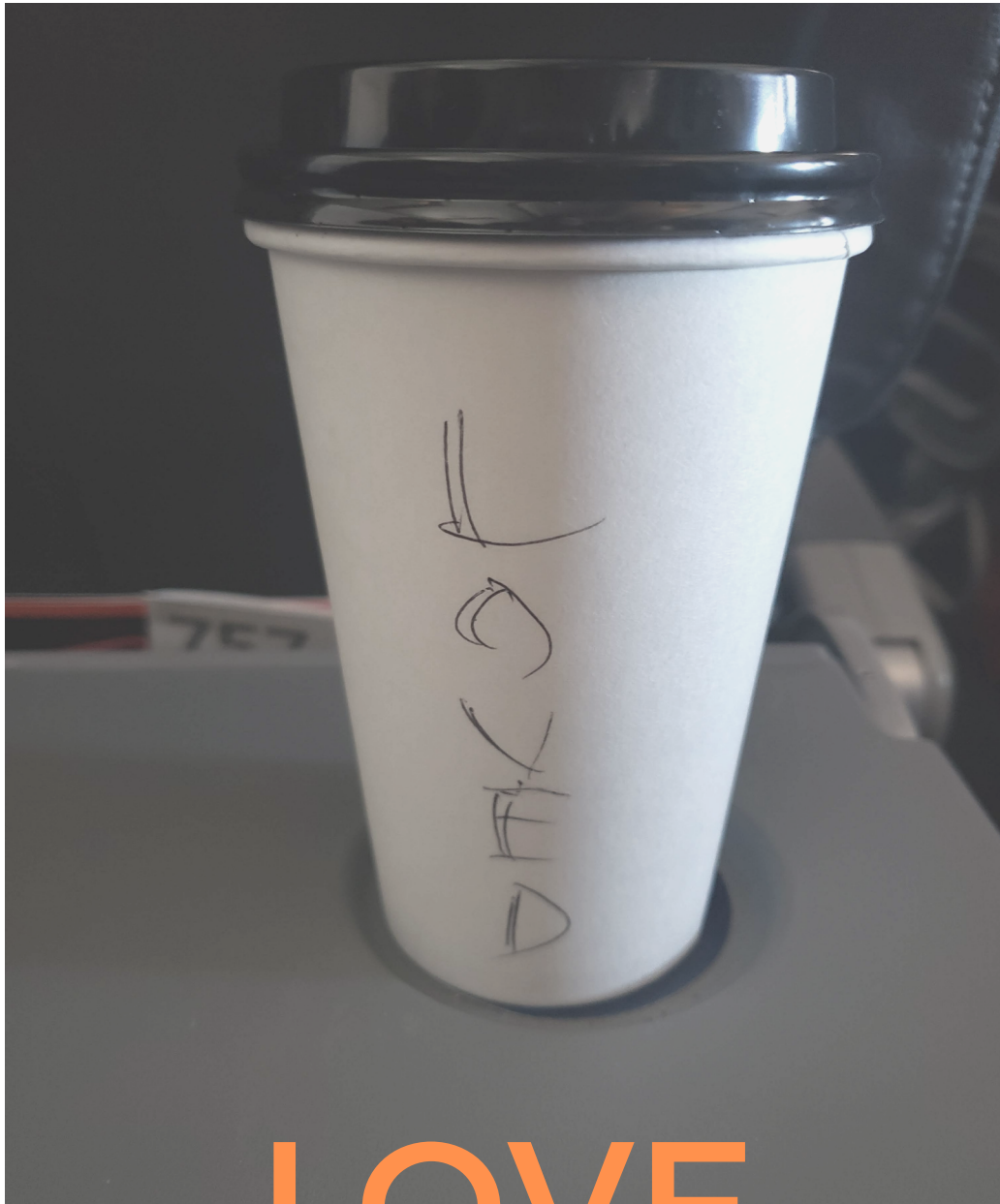


On the 2nd day of our mission trip, Ron and Kamisha visited a neighborhood called Cascorro with my interpreter and guide.

One of the houses we visited was an elderly couple that was of the Jehovah Witness faith. The wife shared with us that at one time she had really bad back issues and pain. The local pastor visited them and prayed with them and now her back pain was gone and that her husband and grandkids along with herself were desperate for prayer.



I shared the Roman Road and Evangecube with them after which we circled in prayer. My interpreter and I both prayed and after praying, the couple asked could they be saved right then and there. You never know what faith in the Word of God can do!

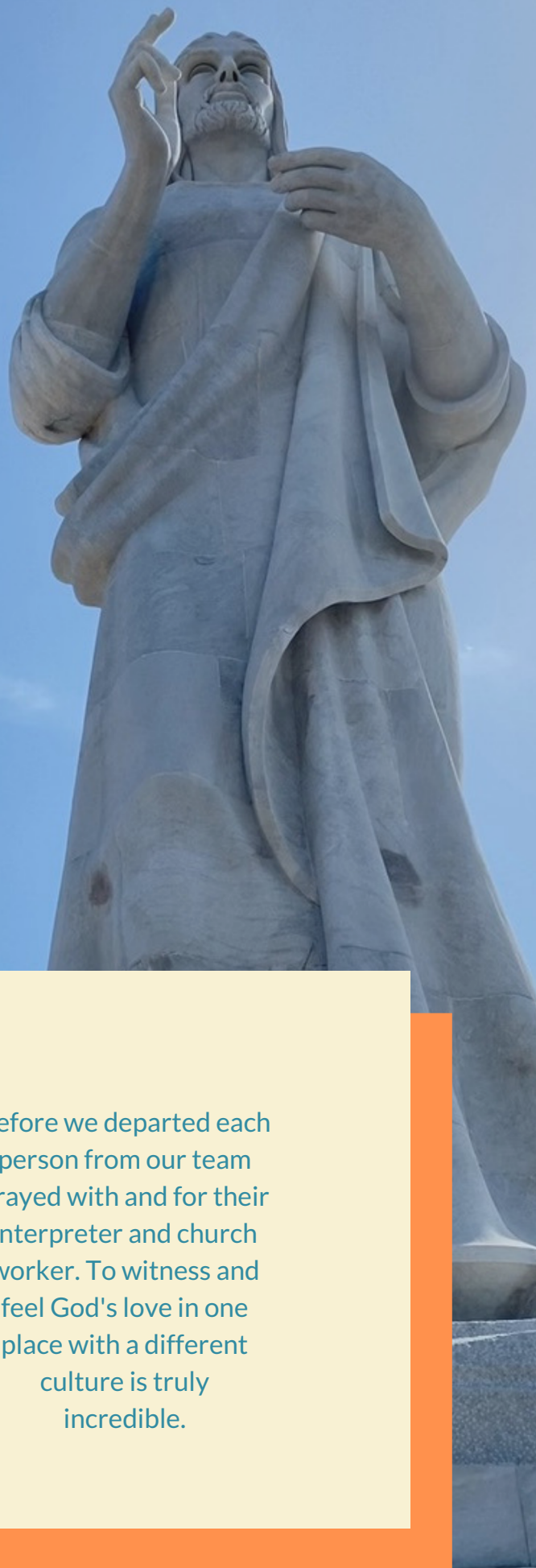


LOVE

MONIQUE RUFF

On the day of departure, the waiter from Friday's wrote on my cup of water the word LOVE! Cuba's 2020 mission trip for me was a rewarding and wonderful experience.

To God be the glory!



Before we departed each person from our team prayed with and for their interpreter and church worker. To witness and feel God's love in one place with a different culture is truly incredible.

Praise moment

In May 2019, I visited the home of a mother and her 6-year-old daughter. Her daughter had a tumor on her foot. Surgery was scheduled for June 6, 2019. I prayed for the mother and her daughter on the day I visited their home and throughout the year. On Monday, March 9, 2020, one of the first questions I asked my church worker from last year was: How is the little girl with the tumor? He replied, tumor gone - no tumor!

Hallelujah!!!

Rejoicing moment

The people in Cuba are hungry for truth right now and they are on fire for God. My church worker for this year accepted Christ last year when I visited her home. To see the excitement in her eyes sharing the Gospel with her family, friends, and neighbors was priceless. We walked hand in hand from home to home sharing the Gospel.

Crying moment

Ramiro, a government employee for Cuba, accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Afterward, with tears rolling down his face, he took my hands and said: "Only Jesus Christ can heal Melody, my daughter." At this point, the interpreter, church worker, and I are crying.



BEAUTY OF GOD'S CALLING EVIDENCED ON MISSION FIELD

ALISA HARRISON

Meeting the people of Cuba and learning more about their history and way of life gave me even more appreciation of the blessings upon blessings God has bestowed upon me.

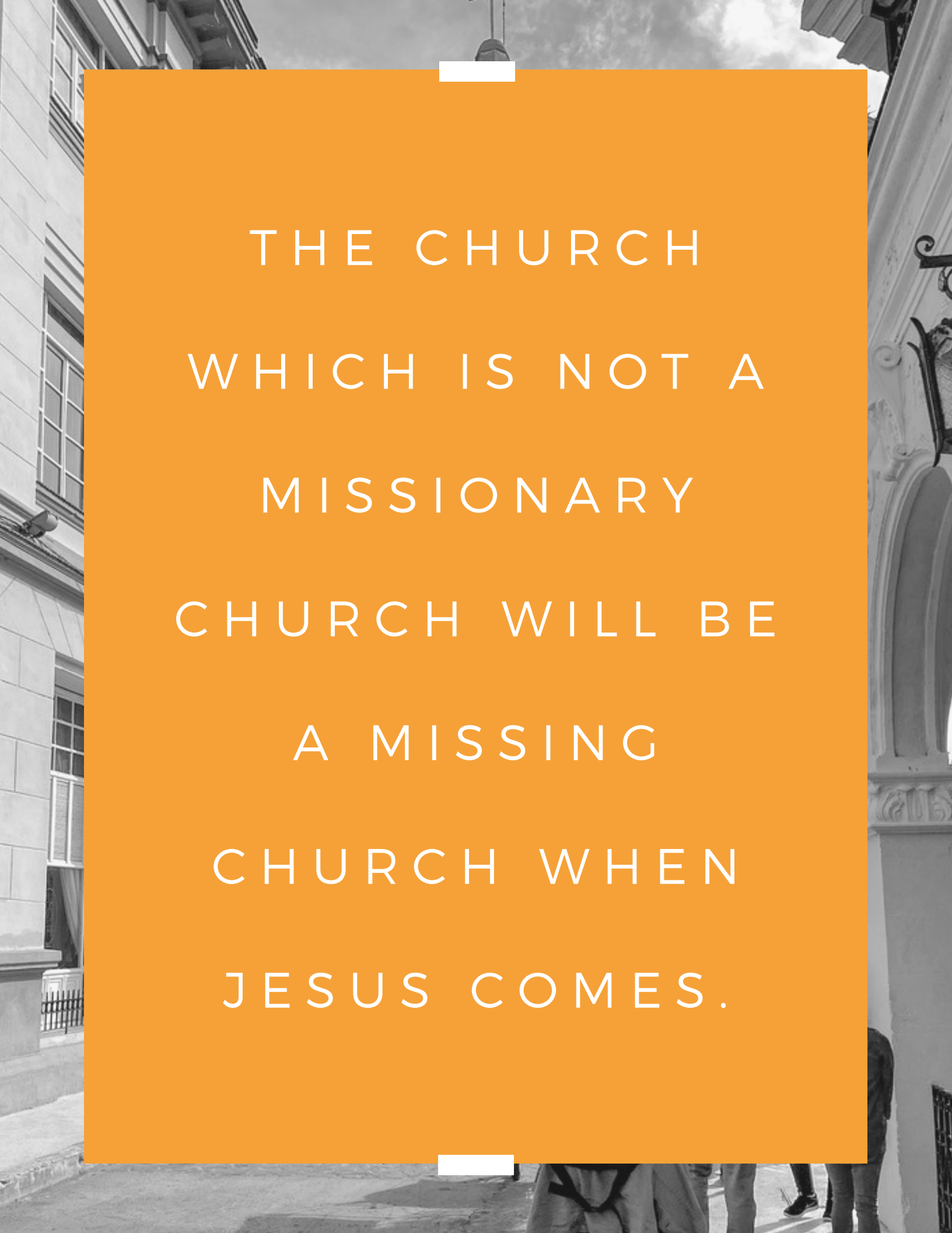
So often, we're presented with a complicated or watered-down version of the Gospel. But during this mission trip, it was like witnessing a miracle when people accepted Jesus into their hearts after they heard the full truth of the Gospel in a simple way. I'm still astonished by the number of people who don't believe that all people sin. It was as if it was a mind-blowing concept.

What an honor it is to be used by God to present the Gospel to unbelievers near and far. Every believer should participate in a mission trip at least once.

Looking back on life, I'd never seen myself as someone who would be in the mission field. If you'd asked me just a couple of years ago about it, I would have thought: Nah, not me. That's the beauty of God's calling though. He can use anyone, even those of us who think we're the most flawed.

To God be the glory!





THE CHURCH
WHICH IS NOT A
MISSIONARY
CHURCH WILL BE
A MISSING
CHURCH WHEN
JESUS COMES.



F. B. MEYER

