

A Miracle in Cuba!

Dear Friends,

My first trip to Cuba was nearly 15 years ago. I wanted to locate a church my father, John Groen, raised funds to help build in Havana. Since that time we have sent over 25 teams to Cuba. We have had great ministry results. On an early visit, I met Rev. Moises Isla who for many years has served as our GCI Ministry Advisor.

Moises is the Senior Pastor of a very successful church located in Cienfuegos, Cuba -- a beautiful city on the South Coast. Through the city runs the Paseo del Prado (the longest boulevard in Cuba). The church is located on the Prado near the center of the city.

The church is always packed with people. Often people are standing because of lack of seating. Three years ago Rev. Isla began asking if we could assist in the expansion and remodeling of the church. Following Fidel Castro's overthrow of the country very few permits for new churches have been granted. And, to obtain a permit for major reconstruction is also difficult. Two years ago plans were conceived with an estimated cost of \$40,000.00 which GCI agreed to raise the funds for. A few weeks ago permits were finally approved for the work.

The plans called for 1) a new roof, 2) a balcony to increase the seating by 125 people, 3) a new floor, 4) a new Alter area, 5) reworking the exterior of the building, 6) an enlarged Bell tower, as well as many other improvements. In fact, construction is now underway.

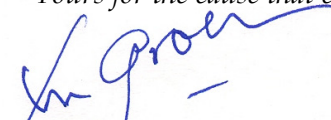
In recent days -- we received word that prices for all supplies have nearly doubled since the first plans were estimated. The expected costs will reach nearly \$80,000.00. Our friends in Cuba simply do not have the ability to raise these funds in their own country.

I have put a few of the pictures of the construction on the enclosed flyer. As we trust in the Lord's provision, please look it over and consider if you could help us with a gift for "The Miracle in Cuba".

Cam Syke, our Vice President and director of our Cuba ministry outreach, is planning a trip to Cuba. Because of the embargo between Cuba and the USA, funds will have to be 'hand carried.' If you are able to do something soon, it would be a great encouragement.

Having spoken in this church many times, I can assure you that your support will increase the effectiveness of the Church and many people will come to faith in Christ.

Yours for the cause that counts,


Jim Groen, President

*Global Connection International
9250 East Costilla Avenue, Suite 600
Greenwood Village, Colorado 80112
or
555 Burrard Street, Suite 1275
Vancouver, BC V7X 1M9 Canada*