

A Letter from Cuba

I share this communication from a brother in Cuba. It captures the scenario better than I can summarize.

Cuba goes through the hardest time ever lived in the history of our nation. The inflation is so horrible that life is close to be unaffordable. Only Jesus upholds his people in Cuba. The shortage is manifold. It branched out to every single dimension of Cuban society. There is a severe shortage of everything you could ever imagine. That's why prices are skyrocketing, everything extremely expensive. Food is the daily struggle of Cuban families. Food is equally very expensive many times more than last time you were here. There is no milk for children and elderly. Pregnant women are not feeding well. Transportation is just chaos. There are seemingly never-ending lines of cars at gas stations. There is an undeniable fuel crisis. Hence, the cost of transportation is overpriced and scarce. To make things worse, the old and obsolete Cuban electrical plants are all broken, backfiring, nearly to collapse. It has triggered the annoying daily blackouts that now ranges from 8 to 15 hours daily without electrical service. As you can imagine refrigeration is a problem to preserve the food we find. The heat and mosquitoes unite in conspiracy with blackouts to make our lives even harder and harder every day. The blackouts are scheduled during the day and nights. One day it is in the evening and the next day they switch down power during the day. If it's at night, no one can sleep in epic battle against mosquitoes, the heat and darkness like just right now that I am sitting in a rocking chair writing these lines to you in a blackout night. Trust me it's a nightmare. When we cannot sleep it's horrible for our mental health. Next day, we must gather all stamina our body and mind had reserved to move forward. We are driven to change the time of some normal and habitual activities such as cooking, having dinner, resting and sleeping. It's a mental torture - Frankly, I'm not hyperbolizing but being clear- Most of the people suffer from depression and other mental disturbances my sister. It's a nightmare, a jungle, an open jail, I don't know how to depict this miserable condition. We fight against lack of motivation. But the best of all is that Christ is with us. We reinforce our faith by prayer and Bible study to believe all the more that Jesus is with us. Amen!

Last month Yami and I had dengue and Covid at the same time. It was the most terrifying thing we had ever experienced. We are alive by a miracle and because Christ is alive!!! Hallelujah!!! We had depression and panic attacks along with the other symptoms. I don't want to bring that back to mind.

Hospitals are conspicuously collapsed. The service is very poor that even doctors, nurses and paramedics protest due to the extremely lack of medical supplies and all kind of vital medicines. Sadly, even doctors and nurses die from Covid and dengue. Dengue is killing lots of people. It's sad. All the context I tried to described has caused more disagreements between the opposition and the government. I don't know if you have heard about fights between the people and police in different locations of Cuba like in Nuevitas, Camaguey, Holguín, Matanzas, Pinar del Rio, Havana. It happens every day but it's not published in the media. Only Havana's shops are well-supplied. Likewise, Varadero 's shops. But the rest of the country is like wilderness. The young generation is turning the course of these events. We know the end of communism is closer. I hope you also know that the Cuban population is in full desperate exodus in whatever means or possibilities, running away the atrocities of a fallen system.

The sad thing is that the young population is massively emigrating abroad to anchor in a safe place to build a decent life. Others engaged in risky and expensive journeys from Nicaragua to USA, facing all kind of dangers even death. Those who leave for the USA on board of homemade boats take high risks as they endanger their own lives. Popularly, they are known as " balseros" something in English like "rafters" I guess. Unfortunately, six young people lost their lives last week in the open sea. There was a girl among them.

Others die at crossing Rio Bravo in their attempt to reach the American side. The Cuban picture is very sad. I've heard many, many, a great number of young people say that they prefer to die in the attempt to be free by escaping over the option of continuing to live a miserable life in a land of desperation, hopelessness and oppression. On the whole, things in Cuba are very complex and chaotic. It's very sad.

Please keep them all in your prayers and thanks for all your support of Cuba!
Stacy Jones