

Feliz Navidad! from Refuge of Hope School



We bring you special Christmas greetings from AFC Canada. In the words of the angels, on that first Christmas night, "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today, a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." What a privilege we have as Ambassadors for Christ to take this message of hope and forgiveness to a lost and hurting world. Thank you for your continued prayers and partnership that makes all of this possible. As we continue to work

shoulder-to-shoulder with our National brothers and sisters, we are witnessing the fires of evangelism and revival continues to spread. We invite you to continue to partner with us in this great mission. If you wish to make a year-end donation, please date and mail your check by December 31, 2017. You can also make a secure donation through our website. All donations will receive an income tax receipt. We wish all of you a joyful, Christ-filled Christmas.

An Email I just Received

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Hamilton:
 Hi, my name is Emma and I am in grade 7 at Linden Christian School. When I was in grade 3



you came and talked to us about Refuge of Hope School in the Dominican Republic. I enjoyed that visit. When I was in grade 5, God gave me an idea to collect pop can tabs as a fundraiser for Refuge of Hope school. My vice principal and children's ministry leader both encouraged me and I collected enough tabs to receive \$20 from a recycler. The awesome thing is that this project also inspired my family and some kids from Sunday school to give me cash donations. I am happy to send you \$101.13 to use where it is needed most.
 Emma

"Christmas in Sosua" Sends a Message of Love and Hope

During the third week of December, AFC will once again sponsor "Christmas in Sosua," a yearly Christmas dinner for the children of 3 very poor barrios in and around the city of Sosua, Dominican Republic. This act of love has opened the door for the church to minister and share the gospel to many of the families in these communities. We have seen parents openly weep, bewildered that someone would care enough to do this for their children. We anticipate that we will serve Christmas dinner to about 1,000 children at a cost of around \$1,800 US dollars. The children will enjoy chicken, potato salad, pasta salad, a roll, grapes and apple slices. This will be topped off by a special punch made from local fruit. For those of you that donated towards this special evening, Pastor Cristian and the children send you a heartfelt "Thank You and Merry Christmas!"



Cuba Receives Direct Hit from Category 5 Hurricane Irma

Hurricane Irma killed at least 10 people during the 72 hours that it battered Cuba, damaging nearly every region of the island nation. The storm first hit there at 9 p.m. Friday, slamming the island's northern coast and becoming the first Category 5 hurricane to make landfall in Cuba in more than 80 years. Irma did not leave the country until Sunday afternoon. Given the storm's immense girth, few parts of the island were spared. The hurricane flooded coastal areas from Baracoa, a city near the island's eastern tip still recovering from last year's Hurricane Matthew, to Matanzas in the west. Government officials credited the early evacuation of about 1 million people with saving lives. The National Civil Defence Council reported that the damage to Cuban banana, rice and sugar cane farms was "incalculable." In a public address, Cuban President Raul Castro said the storm also severely damaged the nation's electrical system as well as key tourist destinations, including three major airports. Castro said the government would work to make sure those areas were repaired before the busy winter season to protect the tourism industry, which has become an important part of the Communist island's economy.



Pastor Noel also reports that eggs are non-existent because the government poultry farms were destroyed. There is a shortage of many food items and others have been inflated, creating a real hardship for most families. It is also illegal to purchase or trade building materials to fix up your damaged house, as the focus is on putting all resources towards getting the resorts back into shape before winter.

AFC Canada will be heading to Cuba in the new year, after the airports open up to Canadian flights. We will be focusing on training church leaders, as the church continues to sustain steady growth, even in the midst of such disaster. We will also be purchasing food to deliver to destitute families, working on farm production and helping to lay out a plan to assist the Cuban church rebuild some shattered homes as well as expand some of the training facilities.



The Church Continues to Experience Growth in Cuba

Even in the midst of natural disasters where many people have been forced from their homes, the church in Cuba continues to experience amazing growth. Several new churches have been planted in both the East and the West. In spite of the many homes that had been damaged or destroyed by the hurricane, one new church, pictured to the left, has started to meet under a tree at the edge of a village.



Several of the leaders in the Cuban Church Planting Movement are willingly relocating to new regions of the country to seek out areas that have not been reached with the gospel. In many cases they are receiving strong opposition. One leader and his wife moved into a house that happened to be next door to a woman and her daughter who are both witches. These two women are making it as difficult as possible for them to be there. Along with trying to chase them away by making excessive noise and calling "curses" down on them, they are also throwing manure in their house through the windows and the doors. Please continue to hold all of these faithful servants up in prayer as they seek to win the lost and begin new churches.

Training Emerging Leaders for Ambassadors for Christ

This past summer found Brian & Linda in Spain, participating in the training of a new generation of emerging leaders. For 69 years, Ambassadors for Christ has been building effective teams of nationals in countries around the world, equipping them to reach their homelands for Christ. In 2015, we embarked on a new phase of training for our national teams under the banner, 'Emerging Leaders Training.' The goal is to build stronger and more effective national teams for the next generation. By supporting AFC, strong national teams continue to be developed to accelerate the spread of the gospel worldwide.

