



INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN

response

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CUBA

COUNTRY PROFILE



AREA:	110,860 sq km
POPULATION:	11.4 million
CAPITAL:	Havana
ETHNICITY:	White 65.1%
	Mulatto 24.8%
	Black 10.1%
RELIGION:	Catholic 41.1%
	Non-religious 30.9%
	Santeria 25%
	Protestant 2.8%

BACKGROUND

Under the leadership of Fidel Castro Cuba remains one of the last protagonists of Communism. Cuba obtained independence from Spain in 1898. Castro led a rebel army to victory in 1959 and thus brought Communism to power. With the help of the former Soviet Union Communism was vigorously exported throughout Latin America and Africa during the following three decades. With the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Cuba was suddenly faced with a loss of subsidies worth between \$4 and \$6 billion annually. The current economic crisis is making life very difficult for the average Cuban. Many goods can only be purchased with US\$ at designated stores.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Strict control of all church activities and repression of religious freedom in earlier years of Communist rule, but since 1990 the degree of pressure has lessened. In June 1999 tens of thousands of Protestant Christians came to Revolutionary Square in Havana for an historic open-air rally. The event was both televised nationwide and attended by Fidel Castro and some of his top officials. This marked what many deem to be overtures from the Castro regime of more tolerance towards Protestants specifically and Christians overall. The 1992 constitution declared Cuba 'secular' and discrimination against Christians, illegal. In practice, periodic harassment of Catholics and Evangelicals continues. Christian workers entering the country often have items or materials confiscated by customs officials and are rarely allowed to enter if the true reasons for their coming is known.



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WWW.CHRIStIANRESPONSE.ORG

CUBA

Help to bring about lasting change in Cuba

In the midst of great adversity, Cuban Christians have come to understand the power of prayer and a sanctified life. In addition to corrupt government officials that seek to oppress Christians, the Eastern part of Cuba is characterized by much witchcraft. Mira was very involved in the occult and feared by many for her “connections” with satanic powers. One day her mother became gravely ill, had to be hospitalized and ended up in intensive care. Mira tried everything in her power, but was unable to be of any help for her mother. At that point of need, someone shared Christ with Mira. During the following night, Mira called out to God, asking Him to heal her mother, if indeed He was real. Suddenly she saw a brightly shining person in front of her. She couldn’t see their face, only light. A voice told Mira, “I am Jesus and I will heal your mother.” Then He was gone again. As quickly as possible, Mira rushed to the hospital and found her mother fully restored. As a result of these events, Mira became a fearless advocate of Christ in her community.

Pray for...

- Pray for the Christians of Cuba that they may be protected from harm
- Thanksgiving for those that have become open to the gospel due to the economic and political difficulties
- Thanksgiving for signs of increased religious liberty and that the Christian message may be heard and received by all.
- Pray that the Cuban government would be more and more open to the spirit and truth of true Christianity.
- Wisdom and strength for Christian leaders as they face harassment and intimidation



How will you respond?

www.christianresponse.org



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