

September, 2008

**In the airport returning to the United States from Cuba.
The lady and man next to Becky are Leslie and Lazaro Sanchez,
a church planter who serves as our Driver while in Cuba.**



There are so many things that we would like to share with you but there just isn't enough space in an E-mail and you probably don't have the time to read a lengthy E-mail so we will just share some highlights of the goodness of the Lord and the way he has used your support to help those who are suffering in other areas of the world.

In 2006 the Lord allowed us to visit Sri Lanka and become acquainted with some wonderful Christian friends. This year because of the violence against the Christians that continues to this very day, the President of the Bible School strongly urged all students to remain on campus. We were able to send a financial gift to Missionary Dwight Dobson and he was able to renovate and stock the Tuck Shop with supplies so that the students could remain safe on the campus. Dwight's E-mail that includes pictures will follow. We are forwarding it to you.

On that same trip we visited an Orphanage that was started by a young pastor in his early thirties. We were so impressed with his passion to help the orphans in Sri Lanka and his surrender to the Lord. This past February we felt directed by God to send a gift for this ministry also. After our gift arrived, we received a note from the missionary, **"Just wanted to forward this note to you from Pastor Dayaratne at the orphanage. He received the \$2000.00 you sent. He says he is caring for 80 children now and the day I gave him the money he had \$40.00 in the bank! So your gift was a definite answer to prayer and as far as he is concerned a miracle answer to prayer!"** Can you imagine wondering how you would feed 80 children with \$40.00? We shared this story with a few Christian friends and two other organizations sent over \$4,000.00 for the orphanage there. We consider it an honor to be instrumental in helping in desperate situations like this.

Next Saturday, September 27, we leave to help with the preparations for the Medical Clinic in San Luis, Mexico. The Doctors, Nurses, Dentists and Chiropractors arrive on September 30. Last year 70 people from diverse places across North America joined with volunteers from San Luis to reach many needy people in San Luis. 4,868 people received 7,692 treatments in just six days of work. Three thousand Bibles, 8 tons of rice and beans were given to the patients at the close of their visit to the clinic. Special needs were met as God touched the hearts of many on the team to give in special ways. People were saved (15 new people attended our first church service after the clinic!) and healed. We believe God for even greater miracles this year. Adrianna, a young lady who was miraculously healed of brain tumors during a Medical Clinic a few years ago, is going to be married the Sunday before the Clinic begins.

Last Thursday night our phone rang at a very late hour. It was from the Missions Director of Cuba. The word that he used to describe the effects of Hurricane Ike on Cuba was desperate; many people including pastors and their families are homeless and hungry. Many of the house churches are without roofs.

In the words of Fidel Castro, former President of Cuba, Hurricane Gustav hit Cuba with the force of an atomic bomb leaving more devastation than the previous 14 hurricanes over the past 5 years combined. Hundreds of thousands of homes have been severely damaged. On the Island of Youth 20,000 of the 25,000 homes were severely damaged and over 100,000 homes in Western Cuba were damaged. A 350 ton ship was pushed a block up on land. Over 3400 tobacco drying houses were destroyed and 32,000 acres of crops including grapefruit, oranges and coffee. Over 10,000 houses collapsed from Gustav and 20 times that number had their roofs removed.

We consider it a miracle that **"The Cuban government has officially asked the Assemblies of God for assistance. Dick Nicholson, AG regional director, says. 'This is an unprecedented opportunity for the church in Cuba to demonstrate Christ's love. It's critical that we empower and resource the church to reach out at this time.'** More than 555,000 attend over 8,000 Assemblies of God churches in Cuba each Sunday. We have made it possible for our relief and assessment teams to purchase life essentials. Three large containers of supplies were pre-positioned in Haiti and Jamaica, which helped provide immediate relief to 65,000 people in Cuba."

We thank God for Convoy of Hope and they will provide the essentials for the daily needs of some of the people but they will not replace roofs on churches or the homes of pastors. We leave for Cuba on October 29 and we hope to be able to bless the Assembly of God pastors with financial gifts that will enable them to erect fallen churches and homes and to help the people of Cuba who already had great needs before the hurricane. Cuba does not have a mail system and the only way to give them the help they need is to carry it into Cuba.

As we said, there are so many things we would like to tell you, but that will take place at another time or in another E-mail. We are so grateful for your prayers and your gifts. Please pray for us during these next two months as they will be physically and mentally demanding. We will be teaching 12 times during 7 of the days we are in Cuba. Becky will oversee the meals for 140 people while we are at the Medical Clinic and I will have the privilege of sharing the Gospel with many who come through the Clinics.

All tax deductible contributions are greatly appreciated. Checks are payable to ACTS 20:24 and mailed to James Leake, 114 Burke Dr., Monroeville, PA 15146.

You can visit our Website at www.jamesleake.com.

With many thanks and prayers of blessing for you,
Jim and Becky Leake