

Friends,

I am reaching out to lay people and pastors who have been involved in any way with our Cuba ministry, *Methodists United in Prayer*. We have an important, urgent need; please forgive the fact we are using an impersonal “form” email to spread the word quickly.

The pandemic has been tough on all of us. But it has been particularly rough in Cuba. Money is desperately needed by many Cuban Methodist pastoral families. There are over 500 pastors in Cuba, and we intend to give each one \$50. **The Florida Conference is going to match our funds.**

Would you or your church prayerfully consider contributing? Could you pledge \$100, \$300, \$1000, or even \$5,000 toward this cause? We have already received pledges for over \$7,000 for *Mission 50*.

It is easy to donate:

- Go to www.cubaministry.org
- Click the “Give” tab
- Under "where would you like to give", select the “wherever needed most” fund
- Enter the desired gift amount and select “just this once”
- Enter your payment information
- PLEASE BE SURE TO ADD THE NOTE: “*Mission 50*” in the notes section, which will appear right after you enter your credit card or bank info - this is how we will know it’s going towards this program
- Click “Give now”

Thank you for participating with us in this opportunity to bless the pastors in Cuba

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January 24, 2021

Psalm 62: 5-12

- ⁵ For God alone my soul waits in silence,
for my hope is from God.
- ⁶ **who alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.**
- ⁷ On God rests my deliverance and my honor;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.
- ⁸ **Trust in God at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before God who is a refuge for us.**
- ⁹ Those of low estate are but a breath,
those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up;
they are together lighter than a breath.
- ¹⁰ **Put no confidence in extortion,
set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, set not your heart on them.**
- ¹¹ Once God has spoken,
twice have I heard this:
that power belongs to God,
- ¹² **and to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love,
for you repay all according to their work.**

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

¹ Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,
² “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.” ³ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey *in extent*. ⁴ And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day’s walk. Then he cried out and said, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵ So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

¹⁰ Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

St. Mark 1: 14-20

¹⁴ Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

¹⁶ And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ Then Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” ¹⁸ They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

¹⁹ When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also *were* in the boat mending their nets. ²⁰ And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him.

GOOD NEWS

Our missions giving for 2020 was strong. We continued our tradition and commitment to the Florida Methodist Conference by paying 100% of our apportioned benevolences last year. This totaled \$19,128.

We also collected a considerable amount of funds towards the extra mile missions of our church. During 2020, we supported various love offering causes with more than \$15,660. These missions include the following:

Florida Children's Home	\$3,300
Missionaries (Groves family)	675
UCOM (monetary)	7,450
Pastor’s Discretionary Fund	161
Hurricane Relief – UMCOR	320
Church Staff –Love Offerings	450
Sierra Leone School	2,456
Memorial Fund	400
Other Missions	450

These figures do not include non-monetary donations such as our regular food contributions to UCOM or the clothing donations. Also not included are projects supported by other groups representing our church such as UMW, UMM, Sunday school classes, etc. These dollar amounts also do not include the time and talents shared to others by the many volunteers of our church.

Faith United Methodist Church can stand tall in our missions support accomplishments. Pray for God’s continued blessings for this Church, that He will enable us to continue His work through our service and support in the year 2021 and beyond.