

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](http://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

George Reed  
Group Area Coordinator  
*Methodists United in Prayer*  
149 South Roscoe Blvd.  
Ponte Vedra, FL 32082  
904-631-7093

**January 31, 2021**

## **Psalm 111**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD!

**I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

<sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the LORD,

studied by all who have pleasure in them.

<sup>3</sup> **Full of honor and majesty are the works of the Lord  
and his righteousness endures forever,**

<sup>4</sup> who has caused his wonderful works to be remembered;  
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

<sup>5</sup> **The Lord provides food for the faithful  
and is ever mindful of his covenant.**

<sup>6</sup> The Lord has shown his people the power of his works,  
by giving them the heritage of the nations.

<sup>7</sup> **The works of the Lord’s hands are faithful and just;  
the precepts of the Lord are trustworthy;**

<sup>8</sup> **they are established forever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

<sup>9</sup> The Lord sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and wonderful is God’s name!

<sup>10</sup> **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.  
The praise of the Lord endures forever.**

## GOOD NEWS

### 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. <sup>2</sup> And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. <sup>3</sup> But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.

<sup>4</sup> Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol *is* nothing in the world, and that *there is* no other God but one. <sup>5</sup> For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), <sup>6</sup> yet for us *there is* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom *are* all things, and through whom we *live*.

<sup>7</sup> However, *there is* not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat *it* as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup> But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.

<sup>9</sup> But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. <sup>10</sup> For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? <sup>11</sup> And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? <sup>12</sup> But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

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.