



# 2026 Impact Report

2026 Spring Update

**Standing Firm in a Difficult Season**

# **Mission Esperanza**

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## **Standing Firm in a Difficult Season**

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# Executive Summary

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Mission Esperanza continues to expand its Christ-centered and humanitarian ministry throughout Cuba during one of the nation's most difficult seasons in recent history. Amid worsening electrical grid failures, prolonged blackouts, severe fuel shortages, transportation challenges, and widespread food scarcity, Mission Esperanza remains steadfast in its commitment to strengthen churches, encourage pastors, feed vulnerable communities, and advance the hope of Jesus Christ across the island.

During the first half of 2026, Mission Esperanza leadership completed its second ministry encouragement trip to Cuba since January, visiting ten Open Bible churches and ministering directly alongside Cuban pastors and church leaders. These visits reinforced both the urgent humanitarian needs facing the Cuban people and the extraordinary faithfulness of local churches serving their communities under extremely difficult conditions and provided desperately needed encouragement to the Open Bible leaders and pastors.

A major focus of Mission Esperanza's outreach continues to be its rapidly expanding feeding ministry in partnership with Gleanings for the Hungry. Through leased 40-foot shipping containers carrying donated soup mix and our canned chicken, Mission Esperanza is now helping provide approximately 750,000 meals per container and feeding over 25,000 Cubans three times each week through local Open Bible churches. These feeding outreaches not only meet critical physical needs but also create powerful opportunities for evangelism, discipleship, and church growth throughout Cuba.

Mission Esperanza is also investing strategically in long-term ministry development through leadership training, construction projects, youth outreach, and infrastructure initiatives. The ministry's 4th Annual Pastors' Conference has been rescheduled for September 2026 in Guanajay and is expected to serve approximately four hundred pastors and church leaders from across Cuba with biblical teaching, encouragement, and leadership development.

In addition, Mission Esperanza will soon begin construction of a new community ministry center in Bauta, Cuba, designed to support worship services, feeding ministries, discipleship, youth outreach, medication distribution, and community care programs. Simultaneously, the ministry is launching an ambitious Solar Initiative aimed at providing dependable electrical power for churches and ministry facilities that increasingly struggle to operate amid Cuba's ongoing energy crisis.

Mission Esperanza also announced the appointment of Jesse Correll as full-time Ministry Director beginning in August 2026. Jesse's extensive operational leadership experience with Gleanings for the Hungry and his firsthand experience in Cuba position him to help strengthen the organization's expanding ministry efforts and growing Kingdom impact throughout the island.

Through every initiative - feeding families, training leaders, building ministry centers, bringing sustainable power, and reaching children through sports outreach - Mission Esperanza remains focused on one central mission: bringing the hope of Jesus Christ to the people of Cuba during a time of extraordinary hardship. The organization expresses deep gratitude to its supporting pastors, churches, donors, ministry champions, and prayer partners whose generosity and faithfulness continue to make this life-changing ministry possible.



# Complete Report

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The people of Cuba are experiencing one of the most difficult humanitarian seasons in recent memory. Over the past five months, the nation has faced worsening electrical grid failures, prolonged blackouts lasting more than 24 hours at a time, severe fuel shortages, transportation challenges, and an extreme scarcity of food. For many Cuban families, daily life has become a struggle simply to survive.

Yet in the midst of these hardships, Mission Esperanza continues to labor faithfully alongside the leadership, pastors, and churches of the Cuban Open Bible movement. We remain deeply committed to strengthening the Church, serving vulnerable communities, and advancing the Gospel throughout Cuba.

The Lord continues to stretch our faith, guide our ministry efforts, and open doors of opportunity. We are profoundly encouraged by His provision through our faithful church partners, ministry friends, and growing family of supporters across the United States. Your prayers, generosity, and partnership are making a profound Kingdom impact.

Recently, Mission Esperanza leadership returned from our second encouragement trip to Cuba since January 2026. During our five-day trip, we visited ten Open Bible churches and met personally with the pastors and ministry leaders at each location alongside Cuban Open Bible Churches President, David Moreno. We were deeply blessed to encourage, pray with, and minister alongside these faithful pastors and their wives as they continue serving courageously under extremely difficult conditions.

Additionally, we witnessed firsthand the churches' feeding ministries in action - serving hundreds of church members and unchurched individuals throughout their surrounding communities. In many locations, these feeding outreaches have become a vital source of both physical nourishment and spiritual hope.

One of the churches we visited was an urban congregation located in the Historical Center of Havana. Over the past two years, we have visited this church and its pastors several times. During each visit, we encouraged and prayed with Pastors Jared and Norma while also providing financial assistance to help renovate the first floor of their more than 100-year-old colonial-style ministry building.

During this most recent visit, through the leading and provision of the Holy Spirit, the five members of our Mission Esperanza team spontaneously raised \$17,000 to complete the first-floor renovation - including the church entry, sanctuary, bathroom, and ministry kitchen - and to purchase the entire second floor of the building.

Pastors David and Rebeca Moreno, Pastors Jared and Norma, and our Mission Esperanza team rejoiced together and praised the Lord for His faithfulness, provision, and miraculous leading. What began as a small renovation project has now become an extraordinary opportunity to expand ministry outreach and establish a lasting ministry presence in the heart of Havana.

This time, we were especially blessed to bring Ryan Post of Village Church (Burbank, California) to personally experience the ministry opportunities and urgent humanitarian needs throughout Cuba. Pastor Ryan was a tremendous encouragement to our Cuban pastors and church leaders and returned home deeply impacted and excited to continue supporting Mission Esperanza's ministry efforts in Cuba.



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We also invited Jesse Correll, Operations Manager for Gleanings for the Hungry, to witness firsthand how donated Gleanings soup mix is transforming lives across the island through local Open Bible churches. Seeing hungry families fed, pastors encouraged, and churches strengthened through compassionate ministry made a profound impact on our entire team.

Mission Esperanza is also excited to announce that Jesse Correll will officially join Mission Esperanza full-time as our new Ministry Director beginning in August 2026.

Jesse faithfully served as Operations Manager for Gleanings for the Hungry, where he demonstrated exceptional leadership, organizational excellence, operational innovation, and a genuine heart for ministry. His firsthand experience in Cuba during this recent trip further confirmed his passion for serving the Cuban people and strengthening the ministry partnerships that are helping transform lives throughout the island.

We are deeply grateful to the Lord for bringing Jesse and his family to Mission Esperanza during this important season of ministry growth, expanded outreach, and increasing Kingdom impact. We believe Jesse's leadership, experience, and servant-hearted commitment will significantly strengthen Mission Esperanza's ability to support pastors, churches, feeding ministries, leadership development, and humanitarian outreach throughout Cuba.



# Feeding Families

## Gleanings Feeding Ministry

Mission Esperanza's "Gleanings" feeding ministry partners with Gleanings for the Hungry to provide life-sustaining meals throughout Cuba. Donated soup mix from Gleanings is combined with canned chicken purchased by Mission Esperanza and packed into leased 40-foot shipping containers. Each container provides more than 750,000 meals. Today, through scores of Cuban Open Bible churches, we are feeding approximately 25,000 hungry and often starving Cubans three times each week. These containers begin their journey in Dinuba, California, travel to the harbor at San Pedro, continue by sea through the Panama Canal, and ultimately arrive at Mariel Harbor near Havana, Cuba.

But this ministry is about far more than food.

Every feeding outreach intentionally shares the Gospel of Jesus Christ through both word and deed. Local churches are seeing significant growth as communities witness the love of Christ demonstrated in practical ways. Hungry people are being fed physically, spiritually, and eternally.



## "Anciano" Elderly Feeding Ministry

Mission Esperanza also continues our "Anciano" feeding ministry - a partnership between Jorge Urra and Kendall Open Bible Church, Sunshine Open Bible Church, and Mission Esperanza.

Through this ministry, hundreds of elderly Cubans who otherwise receive little or no food are cared for each week. Many of these precious individuals are at serious risk of starvation and depend almost entirely on this program for daily nourishment.

In a season of growing desperation throughout Cuba, this ministry has become a lifeline of compassion, dignity, and hope.



# Training Leaders

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Mission Esperanza's 4th Annual Pastors' Conference, originally scheduled for early May 2026, was postponed due to the ongoing fuel crisis and transportation limitations throughout Cuba.

After prayerful reconsideration and coordination with Cuban church leadership, we have rescheduled the conference for September 2026 and moved the location to Guanajay.

We are expecting approximately four hundred pastors and church leaders from across Cuba to attend. This conference will provide critical encouragement, biblical teaching, leadership development, ministry fellowship, and spiritual renewal for leaders serving faithfully under extraordinarily difficult conditions. Our Mission Esperanza ministry team will again bring gifted Spanish-speaking pastors from the United States and Latin America to minister alongside our Cuban brothers and sisters.

We believe this conference will be one of the most important leadership gatherings in the history of the Cuban Open Bible Churches.



# Building Communities

In just six weeks, Mission Esperanza's U.S. construction team will return to Cuba to begin our second major construction project - a new community ministry center for Casa de Dios Open Bible Church in Bauta, Cuba. Working alongside our skilled Cuban construction team, we anticipate completing this project by the end of July - an extraordinary pace that is approximately five to ten years faster than a typical construction timeline in Cuba.

We are especially grateful that this entire project is being funded by the generous congregation of Clear Lake Open Bible Church under the leadership of Pastor Adam Henaman.

This new ministry facility will become a vital center for:

- Worship services
- Feeding ministry distribution
- Discipleship and leadership training
- Youth outreach events
- Community care ministries
- Medication distribution to local families

In communities facing deep economic hardship, these ministry centers become beacons of hope and stability.



# Bringing Power

Mission Esperanza's Solar Initiative is an ambitious and necessary effort to provide reliable electrical power for Open Bible churches throughout Cuba. Most Cuban communities no longer experience dependable electricity. Imagine daily life without reliable refrigeration, lighting, fans, air conditioning, internet access, computer operation, or the ability to charge a mobile phone.

Later this year, our Mission Esperanza solar team plans to begin the first major installation at the primary Open Bible ministry hub in Guanajay.

- This large ministry campus includes:
- The main church sanctuary
- National leadership offices for Cuban Open Bible Churches
- Men's and women's dormitories
- A large dining facility
- Pastoral family housing
- Kitchen facilities
- Conference and ministry rooms
- Administrative offices

This initial large-scale solar and battery system is designed to provide dependable power for ministry operations, feeding programs, leadership training, and community support during widespread outages. Future phases of this initiative will focus on smaller solar and battery systems for hundreds of local Open Bible churches throughout Cuba.

Reliable electrical power is no longer simply a convenience in Cuba - it has become essential for ministry effectiveness, community support, and daily survival.



# Coaching Kids

Earlier this month, our ministry partners from Brache Bread led a five-member outreach team to Cuba for their second youth soccer clinic ministry. Through soccer training, mentorship, games, and personal interaction, children and youth were introduced to the love of Jesus Christ while being connected to local Open Bible churches and pastors in their communities.

This ministry continues to open meaningful doors to reach young people and families through sports, discipleship, encouragement, and relational evangelism.

In a nation where many young people are discouraged about the future, these outreach events bring joy, hope, and the message of Christ.



# Thank You for Standing with Cuba

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We are deeply grateful for every pastor, church, donor, ministry partner, and prayer supporter who stands with Mission Esperanza and the Cuban Open Bible Churches during this critical season.

Your partnership is:

- Feeding the hungry
- Encouraging pastors
- Strengthening churches
- Reaching children and families
- Building ministry centers
- Providing sustainable power solutions
- Advancing the Gospel throughout Cuba

Most importantly, your generosity is helping bring the hope of Jesus Christ to people living through extraordinary hardship.

Please continue praying for:

- The Cuban people
- The leadership of Cuban Open Bible Churches
- Provision for additional food containers
- The upcoming Pastors' Conference
- Safety and success for the Bauta construction project
- Wisdom and provision for the Solar Initiative
- Open doors for continued Gospel ministry throughout Cuba



Because of the Cross,  
David Bethany and the Mission Esperanza Leadership Team

