

September 13, 2017

Dear Friends,

I we want to thank all of you who have been praying for us during the recent years, and specially during these recent days while hurricane Irma was hitting Cuba. It has been quite a week for us and we are still we are experiencing the impact of that huge hurricane.

By God grace, we are safe and sound as are the rest of the members of Nueva Vida Baptist Church and the Equipo Impacto network. At the same time, the area where we live and have our church, the Nuevo Vedado area in Havana, was one of the areas that got significant damage, primarily from the winds destroying trees and severely damaging the city power system. Even now, we are still without power. Most of the residents in the area have lost the food they had in their refrigerators—an expensive blow in a poor country. Likewise, the weather in Cuba is very hot (well into the 30s every day), so sleeping at night is almost impossible without air conditioning or a fan. And of course, it's also difficult to work under these circumstances. There is a lot of emotional pain and hurt as so many people have lost so much. It is a time for pastors to really step up for their people.

If you get the chance to see some pictures of the rest of Cuba on the Internet, you will see a lot of devastation! The hurricane went through the north coast, destroying everything on his way, including the Cuban economy's primary source of outside income: the resorts located in Varadero and the many keys on the northern coast. Airports have shut down as they were also severely damaged. And as I mentioned, the damage to the power systems across the island was severe. The effects have been unparalleled in recent memory as it was the biggest power plants that were hit. Many houses were destroyed. Hospitals were destroyed. At least 10 people lost their lives. And the infrastructure of this fragile was island was so badly damaged, it will take years to recover.

For Equipo Impacto, this means that we need to reschedule at least one of the workshop we had planned for September, and there may be more changes yet to be made. We are still working on this.

Prayers Requests:

1. For the full recovery of the electric and water supplies.
2. For protection against epidemic diseases which are typical after this kind of disaster.
3. For food in weeks and months to come.
4. For the full recovery of the biggest economic source of Cuba, the northern keys resorts.
5. For compassion and wisdom to help our people as needed.

Many thanks for your prayers and support!



Alexis Pérez Alfonso

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