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The Cuba-Mexico Christmas Connection



For my second year in a row I have ministered for a Cuban Pastor and his Mexican congregation here in Mezcales during the Christmas Season. I find it very interesting that the name of his church just happens to be Iglesia Vida (Life Church). Pastor Alfredo Linares, his wife Barbara, two adult daughters and their grandchildren left their homes in Cuba and are now Mexican residents and on their journey to becoming Mexican citizens. We bonded quickly due to the many years of my missionary service to the entire Island of Cuba. He stated on several occasions that I know his country better than he does because I have been too many more providences and regions than he has.

I have seen first hand the persecution of Cuban Christians living under communist oppression. I was spied on and under constant surveillance day and night and one occasion with infrared binoculars while I was preaching at night in an open field. I experienced interrogation by authorities and faced possible arrest. My experiences while there are mild in comparison to the brutality that Pastor Alfredo Linares experienced. This dear pastor was humiliated and tortured. He is now scarred by horrifying memories and suffers post-traumatic stress syndrome. It is humbling for me to be in the presence of a Cuban pastor who has suffered severe persecution at the hands of their government.

One of his daughters is pastoring a church that she founded and his other daughter is a medical doctor like her mother and operates a clinic across the street from her sister's church in San Jose a few miles north of our Vida Community Center. Pastor Linares did the physical construction of both the medical clinic and the church facility. He provides the maintenance and janitorial service for the medical clinic to help subsidize his minister's salary. His doctor daughter treated me at her clinic and thanked me for my missionary service in Cuba.

I am so impressed by the Cuban culture and their passion and ingenuity. The pastor and I share mutual friends and acquaintances of Cuban





Pastor Alfredo Linares and your's truly...

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(Lee Short Ministries International)

Ministers. One of them was his dear fellow associate and superintendent for the Assemblies of God in Central Cuba. Pastor Orison Vila was arrested in his home in Camaguey at 9am on May 25th 1995 and sentenced on the same day to 23 months in prison for holding illegal meetings. His home church was in revival and grew to 2,500 attendees and his sentence was reduced to 18 months which he served.

Upon finishing ministering to his congregation, Pastor Alfredo took me out to a very nice buffet. This humble pastor cannot afford such expensive meals. I offered to pay for the meal as they searched their purse and pockets, but even though they were using their last peso they declined my offer. They wanted to bless me for my missionary service in Cuba and bless me for sharing God's word at their church. How precious! Thank you for your prayers and support which make this ministry possible. Please remember us in your year-end giving. ¡Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo!

Together We are LSMI/Vida Internacional,

We love and appreciate you all!

Ju & Carol

The Cuba-Mexico

Christmas Connection

Mexico & Beyond



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