

CUBAN PASTOR IMPRISONED

JUIV 1995

Cuban government threatens Pastors: "Shut down home meetings, or go to jail."

Orson Villa, an Assembly of God minister, was sentenced to sixteen months in prison. He was arrested at 6AM Thursday, May 25th, and accused of Contempt, becoming self sufficient, independent and having 47 illegal home churches. In addition to his incarceration, the Cuban police confiscated all of the church's musical equipment, and the pastor's two automobiles.



Cuban pastor said to Lee, "I believe this week I'm going to be arrested".



Evangelist Jerry Davis, Lee Short & Cuban Brother show off the first edition of their monthly magazine. It is impacting Cuba with the Gospel.

Pastor Villa of Camaguey, Cuba is no stranger to being imprisoned for the Gospel's sake. Twelve years ago, he served time, his crime that of being an evangelist who held a revival in a Baptist church during which miraculous healings occurred. The response to these signs and wonders caused such large gatherings that the government officials felt threatened.

His first notable stand for the Gospel was as a medical student who upon graduation was given the choice to deny his Christian faith to receive his diploma and title of "Doctor". Orson Villa chose to serve Christ and became an evangelist mightily used by God throughout Cuba during the most repressive times in Cuba's history.





Lee ministering a message of hope and vision to the persecuted Church in C u b a. Many came forward for salvation, prayer & the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Lee proclaims Jesus Christ is LORD over Cuba!



Many denominations have shut down their home churches such as the Baptist, Nazarene, Salvation Army, and First Pentecostal. I believe this week I will be imprisoned. I want to fight with clean hands. This is a Cuban problem. I want to reason with the government. But if I am imprisoned the Body of Christ will have a voice. I am going to fight to the end.

"I believe this week I'm going to be arrested".

"The Minister of Justice functions as prosecutor and judge. He has sent me a stack of notices demanding that I shut down my house churches. I told him I can not do this, it is the work of God. The Church in Cuba is growing. There are 1,200 official registered church buildings in Cuba, 138 of them are here in Havana. We are growing to a point where it is necessary to construct new church buildings. The harvest is great but the buildings are few.

The harvest is growing greater and greater. The government has to recognize the needs of the Church. This is a necessary conflict. This is to test the Church.

The government only wants me to pastor one church here in Havana but I will not shut down our other churches. It is a good moment for us here in Cuba. The Holy Spirit is uniting us, the trial of fire is good. Cuba is a country in confusion." Please pray for the pastors in Cuba and for our work there and beyond.

In His Love, Lu, Carol, Josh, amy & Darah

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