



Speaking Hope to the World

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Staying Tuned With Cassius & Valerie April 2019



Valerie: Cuba surprised me! In some ways it was a step back in time, with their horse-drawn and bicycle-powered taxis. On the other hand, cell phone use is widespread, but with limited internet access. I was overwhelmed by the friendliness of the people. They say hello and good-bye with “air kisses”, even to those they’ve just met! My trip was a valuable experience.

Once in Cuba, a support team of translators, pastors and others joined our US team of six. At left is a photo of the core group. That’s me in the back row, center.



I expected the church in Cuba to be hidden and subdued. Not so. The church is energetic and passionate! Note the open doors and windows in the photos above; the music and praise flood the neighborhood. Some church buildings were easily recognizable. Others (photo at right) were completely unmarked, and surprised me when we entered to find a vibrant place of worship – see the photo just above it.

Pastors and ministry leaders attended our teaching sessions. I had the opportunity to share about the prayer ministry of TWR Women of Hope and distribute prayer calendars. A radio listener told me about how her life was changed by hearing TWR radio programs in Spanish, and especially by *Women of Hope*. What an encouragement!

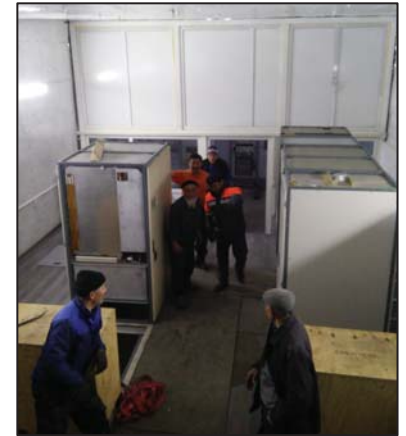


People in Cuba endure hardships like food rationing and lack of available medicine. Pastors are paid meager salaries. We brought laptops for pastors, projectors for churches, and over-the-counter meds and vitamins for pastors to distribute. Several bicycles were purchased with money sent from the U.S. and were given to pastors. Recipients of these gifts were so appreciative!

Thank you so much for praying for my trip to Cuba!



Cassius: I'm excited about two major projects in progress, transmitters for parts of the world where the Gospel is needed. Both are high-power medium wave (AM) transmitters to provide regional coverage. One is the *Silk Road Transmitter* in Central Asia. This project is nearing completion. The photos show the delivery and installation of the transmitter at the site. Staff



members from Europe, Africa and North America are working together to bring this new platform on the air. The leader of this project is an experienced RF (Radio Frequency) engineer, a TWR retiree, who now volunteers his time. **Please pray** for our brother Ruedi and his international team as they complete this major task.



The second project is the *Oasis Transmitter*, an additional broadcast platform in our West Africa Transmitting Station (WATS). This 200,000-watt transmitter is being tuned to direct the signal to northern Nigeria, home of the Boko Haram insurgency. Fund raising for this

project is ongoing. Staff from the US and South Africa have been on site to assist. These photos show an antenna guy wire anchor point, and trenches being dug for antenna radials. But parts from the US are being delayed by customs. The final license depends on our successful testing of the new frequency. **Please pray** for the export process and license. The outcome of an upcoming election could jeopardize the license, due to relationships we've been cultivating for some time.



Praise and Thanks:

- Praise God that Valerie's mother has recovered from a series of mini strokes that she had in January. Two short hospital stays, new medications and physical therapy sessions have helped her to literally get back on her feet again. We are so grateful!

- Thank you, God, for many blessings during Valerie's trip to Cuba. What a joy it was for her to work with the team and make new friends in yet another part of the world.

- And thank you all for your continued prayer and financial support.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Romans 15:13, ESV

In HIS grip,
Cassius & Valerie Smith

Cassius & Valerie

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