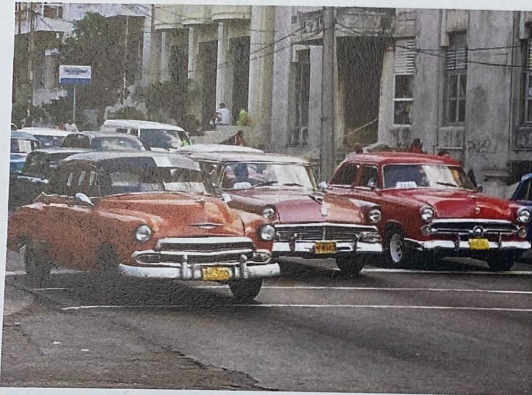


REDEEM

News from REDEEM! / Widows And Orphans September 12, 2023

The 2022 – 2023 Cuba Solar Power Project

Whenever Americans think of Cuba, visions of pristine American-made cars, circa 1957, being used as taxis in downtown Havana, come to mind. The perseverance and ingenuity of the Cuban people is on full display as they find creative ways to keep these classic cars on the road.



But it is not just the classic cars which are the subject of their perseverance and ingenuity. Cubans apply those skills to the electrical grid in Cuba. The system is old, obsolete and in need of repair. For many Cubans, power outages are a part of their daily life. During and after major storms power outages can endure for days on end.

In 2020 Reuters reported that there is no short-term fix for the blackouts which disrupt the lives and economy of the Cuban people. In 2021 the **Havana Times** reports that Cuban will spend four hours

daily without electricity. In September 2022 an article by Ed Augustin reported that *“the country’s provinces were already facing grueling power outages, the result of an adding energy grid in need of an overhaul.”*

Havana Times reports that Cuban will spend four hours a day without electricity.

In September of 2022 Pastor William Devlin met with many of REDEEM! team members located in Cuba. REDEEM! has been active in Cuba since 2007. Pastor Devlin has made more than 50 trips to Cuba since then and now has over 40 churches in his network there. REDEEM! conducts training for pastors in Cuba, host Jesus Youth Festivals there and assists in planting and supporting churches throughout the country. You can read many more details in REDEEM!'s Special Report: [REDEEM! Cuba, January 2022, Volume 3, Issue 1.](#) (We will email mail copies of this report upon request.)

One of the issues facing these pastors was the strain the power outages put on their ability to spread the Gospel of Jesus. Unannounced and frequent outages siphon off precious time from their daily routine to attend to efforts to protect their stored food from spoiling and interrupts their ability to communicate with each other.

Pastor Jimmy, REDEEM!'s team leader in Holguin, Cuba, had already given his personal gas-powered generator to his church building to keep the lights on and available for services and other evangelistic activities.



Contact Pastor Devlin: Octanefaith@yahoo.com or call (646) 233 7279 or www.WidowsAndOrphans.info

REDEEM! pledged to return to the U.S. and raise money for equipment to make Pastor Jimmy energy independent. Little did we know the roadblocks that would be encountered in making that pledge a reality!

Upon return to the U.S., the REDEEM! team discussed the project and began to reach out to contacts for input about what was needed and where the equipment could be obtained. The team also began looking into how the equipment, once found, could be transported to Cuba. We were not even sure the shipment would be allowed. It turns out that the Cuban Government allows the importation of anything that will assist the people.

REDEEM! connected with Caleb Kull, a friend of REDEEM! living in Wyoming, who is a specialist in this type of installation. Caleb's home in Wyoming was totally off the grid. The home derived its power from the sun, stored it in batteries and the stored power was sufficient to run all his home utilities, appliances, and lighting needs. Caleb was happy to provide REDEEM! with a schematic of what was needed and some sense of how the components should be connected once they got to Cuba.

Caleb referred REDEEM! to another power grid specialist, Zac Horton. Zac put together a complete list of needs and was able to source all the needed materials for the project at cost.

By October of 2022 REDEEM! had placed an order with Zac for all the materials needed to install solar panels on Pastor Jimmy's house in Holguin and connect the power collected to a series of batteries. The unit would also have the capability of using power from the Cuban power grid to charge the batteries and sell excess power back to the grid as a means of funding of the Lord's work in Cuba.

Once all the components were available, Zac's firm shipped them to our freight forwarder located in Miami, FL. There the contents were re-packaged into wood crates for shipment by boat to Havana. Once in Havana, the shipment required several more weeks to be transported down to Pastor Jimmy's residence in Holguin.

Eight large solar panels needed to be lifted onto the roof, frames for the panels needed to be constructed and the panels needed to be situated to best face the sun. All these activities were completed by August of 2023, and we recently celebrated its start-up.

The goal of this effort was to make the church in Holguin better able to meet the spiritual needs of the people there and not be constantly distracted by the daily interruptions caused by the power outages. The project is also a manifestation of what can be done, with God's power, to bring the Gospel to people throughout the world.

The total cost of this project exceeds \$10,000, including over \$3,500 in shipping costs. Your loyal and tireless support has made this project a reality.



At left: Pastors Devlin, Pastor Jimmy and Youth Pastor Jesse Stokes of Coastal Christian Church, Somers Pt., NJ.

