



Helping Cuban refugees



We met these five refugees out of a group of seven housed in the facility shown below. The gentleman in the middle, above, has already been deported since our first meeting.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Many disillusioned Cubans try floating on homemade rafts to “freedom” wherever that might be, sometimes being picked up by the Caymanian Coast Guard.
- These refugees are housed on Grand Cayman until they are deported back to Cuba.
- LCMS International Missions is developing another VBS this year called *Missions Unpacked 4 Kids*. Please consider doing it this summer
- **Current favorite Spanish word/phrase:** “Estrella de mar” – “starfish” – literally “star of the sea”.



The Initial contact

Yoly, a Cuban Caymanian, and member of Safe Harbour, brought us into contact with Raisa, also a Cuban Caymanian, who has contact with the Cuban refugees. We met with Raisa, and she directed us to the place to which the refugees had just been moved the week before. The Cubans were so excited to meet us. “Un pastor!” The news spread from one to the other that a pastor had arrived for them. The guards were initially reserved but later welcomed the idea of having a pastor pray with them as well as with the Cubans. “We need it too!” they told us.

need to get permission from Cayman Immigration Enforcement (CIE). However, CIE seems reluctant to grant permission as each time we ask, they give a different story why we can’t this time, maybe next time. Frustrating indeed!

Safe Harbour

In the meantime, members of Safe Harbour are collecting gently used clothes and shoes so the Cubans can wear decent clothes back to Cuba – they can only take what they’re wearing at the time of deportation.

What next?

We keep going back to CIE and pray they grant us permission to minister to these Cubans.

Frustrating red tape

However, before we could even leave the vehicle, the guards told us we first



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PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *The Cuban refugees*
- *We get permission to minister to the Cubanos*
- *“M” – that a solution for her difficult life situation may be found. Still ongoing.*
- *“Y” – that she return to worship. That the Holy Spirit open her daughter’s heart to having her two little grand daughters baptized soon*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Time spent with Emma (pictured above).*
- *Continued Word and Sacrament ministry at Safe Harbour*
- *The faithful few that regularly attend divine services*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *The many congregations and individuals who support us with prayer, encouragement and with their generosity.*

LCMS clergy visit Safe Harbour



Rev Steven and Kim Flo and Rev Charles and Susan Hendrickson after the Divine Service

Be like these guys!

These two LCMS pastors and their wives planned their island vacation around attending the Divine Service. Their upbeat presence and robust singing did so much to encourage our little flock. Bible study afterwards was lively with much valuable discussion. We spent much of the afternoon and evening with these dear people! If you are planning an island getaway, do consider coming here! We’d love to host you!

Missions Unpacked 4 Kids

Heidi was invited to help create Day 2 of OIM’s MU4K 2023. What fun! If you’re looking for a VBS this summer with special emphasis on our missions around the world, please consider doing this one! Grand Cayman and Safe Harbour are featured on Day 2. (Day 1: Africa; Day 2: LAC; Day 3: Asia; Day 4: Eurasia). Don’t miss it!

Home Service – Jun/Jul ‘23

PLEASE let us know if we can visit YOUR CHURCH to give a slideshow presentation of our work on Grand Cayman! We’d love to see you all!

Soli Deo Gloria

“And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified”. Corinthians 2:1-2

*- Your partners in mission,
Gerald and Heidi Paul*



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on “Service Opportunities.”

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Gerald Paul. Make checks payable to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR

Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

On the memo line include *Gerald Paul – Cayman Islands*

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