



# Seeds from Sowers International



A Sowers International Publication



*March 2007*

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## *Cuba*

*By Jairo Soberanis*

Cuba, a country that is part of the Grand Antilles Islands, whose capital is Havana, has a total size of 110,860 square kilometers, and a climate that is tropical and humid. Its population is around 12 million people. It is governed by a Communist party led by Fidel Castro. It is divided into 14 provinces.

Besides being able to visit the capital city, I was also able to visit the province of Holguin that is about 800 kms. to the east of Havana and has a population of around 223,000 people. It has a high percentage of syncretistic cults that have an African origin, some eastern practices from India, and some Buddhism. There is also some witchcraft and a Caribbean



practice called Santeria. It is sad that there is only around 3% who are Christian.

The journey to Holguin took 14 hours by bus. I arrived around 11:00 pm and was met by a local Cuban Pastor Rubierdo Ajo Mayo, who had invited me there to do some missionary work. They arranged some evangelistic events where I was able to preach the gospel of salvation, pray for healing and miracles. Various families came forward to give their lives to the Lord, some even gave the promise of opening their homes to begin new house churches there. Some were baptized and many rededicated their lives to Christ. I also taught the missionary vision to groups of leaders under the theme “Cuba for Christ!”, encouraging them to get involved in what the Lord was doing all over Cuba.

*Due to the sensitive nature of our work in these difficult places, many names and details have been omitted. Also for security purposes, please do not copy or publish any part of this without speaking with us first.*

## Cuba Continued

We then visited different outreaches where the pastor was working, in a radius of around 100 kms, encouraging leaders who were in charge of these places to persevere in the work of the Lord in the face of danger and difficulties and a very uncertain future where no one knows what will happen when Fidel dies. I was able to share with them that the gospel needs to be preached more now than ever before. People need to know that the future is in God's hands and that they can live in that confidence!



This is the best time to sow the word of God in Cuba. The cities and villages that I went to are rarely visited by missionaries or workers. They are very difficult to get to; far away over dirt roads where, in the rainy season, cars and busses get stuck in the mud and the only mode of transportation is a drawn cart.



It was here that I was able to see the need for some micro industries that could be funded by missionaries that would be a great blessing to the local workers. Things as simple as providing small loans to capitalize the raising of animals like turkeys, pigs, cows & chickens or growing yucca or bananas. They already know how to do it, what they need is funding and training in how to manage the business.

All of the activities we did while I was there were done in secret, it was prohibited for me to preach as a tourist. As we traveled to visit the outreaches, on several occasions I had to get out of the car at police checkpoints and loose myself among the crowd of people, if I was found out to be a foreigner they would have confiscated the pastor's old car and put me in jail. Praise to the Lord that each time we came to checkpoints I was able to sneak out of the car and mix with the people, it was a good thing that I am also a Latino and looked pretty much like the other people. Jesus once again saved me and because of this I can say: "Here I am Lord, send me!"

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?  
And I said, "Here am I, send me!" (Isalah 6:5-8)*

## 2007 Short Term Mission Trips

*"...Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

*How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news". (ROMANS 10:13-15)*

### 2007 Teams ...Where will you go?

#### Uganda:

**Date:** May 29 – June 12

**Leader:** Ken & Sherry Roberts

**Contact:** Sherry Roberts at [sherryroberts@yahoo.com](mailto:sherryroberts@yahoo.com)

#### Uganda:

**Date:** July 7 – July 26

**Leader:** Ken & Sherry Roberts

**Contact:** Sherry Roberts at [sherryroberts@yahoo.com](mailto:sherryroberts@yahoo.com)

#### Taiwan:

**Date:** June/July (Two weeks)

**Leader:** Paul Funk

**Contact:** Victoria Johnson at [vj@sower.org](mailto:vj@sower.org)

#### Taiwan/China:

**Date:** July 5 – July 26

**Leader:** Victoria Johnson

**Contact:** Victoria Johnson at [vj@sower.org](mailto:vj@sower.org)

#### China:

**Date:** August (Two weeks)

**Leader:** Gwynn Lewis

**Contact:** Victoria Johnson at [vj@sower.org](mailto:vj@sower.org)

#### Philippines:

**Date:** June or July (Two weeks)

**Leader:** Jason Lewis

**Contact:** Victoria Johnson at [vj@sower.org](mailto:vj@sower.org)

#### Thailand:

**Date:** June or July (Two weeks)

**Leader:** Jason Lewis

**Contact:** Victoria Johnson at [vj@sower.org](mailto:vj@sower.org)



### Contact Us

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## Teaching in Thailand

*By Marcela Gravinni*

My life has changed in so many ways this past year that it is hard to decide which of these events has changed me the most. However, the time I spent in Krabi, Thailand was certainly one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Going on a mission trip for ten days is entirely different from going for two months. I realized that the longer you spend in a particular place the longer you have to immerse yourself in its culture. It also gives you the opportunity to build genuine relationships with the local people.



*Marcela (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) with some of the ladies from a local church.*

The soil of Thailand is very hard for the Gospel but little by little boundaries are being broken. We may never know what happens to the seeds we plant, but our job is simply to plant the seed; the result is God's doing.

We taught English at different schools in the mornings, where we taught with different curriculums that the missionaries had prepared. Everyday in the afternoon, we taught at the Grace Language School, the Sower's school that has just recently been accredited by the Thai government. We were able to touch many lives. We plowed the soil, the seeds will follow.

It was during our second month that we were able to witness the birth of a new believer. A few years ago, a woman named Nina had the opportunity to hear the Gospel but she never did anything about it. She had a hotel in Phuket and was financially secure, but during the tsunami she lost everything. Some days had gone by and she found herself walking on the beach, suddenly; she saw a book washed ashore. It was a Bible. She remembered the woman that told her the story of Jesus and decided to learn more about it. Eventually, she moved to Krabi and started attending Santisuk Church. We were there when she received Jesus and was baptized on Sunday, August 6. The person who planted that seed will never know that it gave fruit. Everything happens in God's time. I went to teach but instead, I was the one that was taught!



*Nina (Center in the dark blue dress) at her baptism.*

## *Uganda Short Term Missions*

*By James (Jim) Adamik*

I just returned, a few weeks ago, from the country Winston Churchill called the “Pearl of Africa” and I already have my flights booked for a return trip in June. This pearl is the country of Uganda, located on the East African plateau. Uganda includes within its borders a large portion of Lake Victoria which helps to account for a relatively tropical climate. My travels in the country have been mostly from east to west and back in the southern portion where at every turn the beauty of the people and the landscape is evident. I am certain that this country and its people remain among our Creator’s favorites.



*Jim Teaching @ New Creation Center*

I travel to Uganda on short term mission trips led by my good friends Ken and Sherry Roberts, co-founders of *Loving One By One*, a ministry dedicated to the children of Uganda. Ken and Sherry travel to Uganda every six months. Their accomplishments to date include helping to establish the first Christian recording studio in the country setting up a Christian television production organization; and the establishment of New Creation Centre, a school where refugee or other outcast children can get a free Christian education, a daily hot meal, and brand new beautiful uniforms in royal purple to remind the children that

they are sons and daughters of King Jesus. All of this has been accomplished in just 18 months and has been financed almost one hundred percent by Ken and Sherry’s personal finances. Ken and Sherry are everyday people, just like you and me; Ken works as a sound engineer for a popular amusement resort in southern California, and Sherry labors full time for their ministry. They are, however, rich in God’s graces and are led to follow His plans. I am encouraged by their example to live out not only The Great Commission, but also the values of love for one another given in Acts.

On the agenda for this coming June, for *Loving One by One*, is to establish a home for orphaned children living on the streets of Kampala, the capital city of Uganda. Kampala is home to a large number of street children orphaned by AIDS or abandonment; whether displaced by war or the victims of abject poverty and governmental neglect, these children learn to care for one another as best they can and are willing to share what little they do have. As with New Creation Centre, this home will start out small and grow as God provides. It is a privilege to meet these children who will be given a hope for a better future because of their new home. I am thrilled that I will be able to be in Uganda in June to help with this undertaking, and I pray as Paul did, that God will pour out his blessings on this new project.



*Orphaned Children in Kampala*

If you would like to learn more about the ministry work being done by *Loving One By One* please visit its web site at [www.lovigonebyone.org](http://www.lovigonebyone.org). Also, please pray that God will continue to provide for the good works being done in Uganda.

## *Sowers Short Term Teams*

### ❖ **Kingdom Teams**

These are teams that are organized by your church and/or school but that go to our fields of ministry. We do everything related to travel & ministry on the field and, if needed, provide a leader to accompany the team. We also provide informational materials for field orientation, debriefing and other training. We coordinate with your church or school in order to select the dates and places for the teams to go.

### ❖ **Sowers Teams**

These are teams that we at Sowers organize and that go out with individuals from various churches and geographic locations. Much of the organization and training is done via e-mail. Orientation and debrief are done on the field. Any Christian may apply. We are word centered evangelicals and expect all participants to go through a process that includes completing an application and submitting a pastoral reference. These teams are normally led by our founder and executive director, Gwynn Lewis and/or various Sowers staff members.

### ❖ **The Process**

If you are interested in joining a Sowers Team or if your Church and/or school is interested in sending a Kingdom team, contact Victoria Johnson at [vj@sower.org](mailto:vj@sower.org).

## *Sowers Prayer Requests*

- **April** – Pray for Gwynn as he is traveling in Thailand and China this month. Pray that God will grant him favor in all that He does. Pray that God will give him wisdom as he seeks to bring honor and glory to God.
- **May** – Pray for the West Palm Beach group as they travel to China this month. Pray that God will bless their time in China and that all those that God would want to touch through them would have open hearts and minds.
- **June** – Pray for all of those that have committed to going out on one of our short term teams this summer. Pray that God would prepare them for the work that lies ahead and allow them to build good relationships with their teammates.
- **July** – Pray for all of the teams going out this summer; Pray for the Thailand team, pray for the Uganda team, pray for the Philippines team, Pray for the China team. Pray that each team would accomplish all that God wants them to this summer.



# *Global Sports Ministries*

*By Kirk Lantz*



***The Lantz Family***

Greetings to all of you in the Sowers family of partners! We are the Lantz's and we are one of the newest Sowers missionary families. Before we share our ministry, we would like to tell you a little bit about ourselves. My name is Kirk Lantz and my wife is Tara. We have two young boys, Noah and Jeremiah. We reside in San Pedro, CA and are members of Rolling Hills Covenant Church. Tara and I both grew up in Palos Verdes, CA and are lifelong surfers. We have been involved in various degrees of ministry to the local, national, and international surfing and beach communities for over 7 years. About a year ago, we felt God calling us to step out in faith and start a new ministry called Global Boardsports Ministries.

Our vision is for Global Board sport Ministries to be a network of people from all over the world who desire to share the love of Christ within the global boardsports community. Specific boardsports targeted by this ministry include SURFING, SKATEBOARDING, WAKEBOARDING, PADDLEBOARDING, and SNOWBOARDING. Although our own family is primarily involved in ministering to surfers, we network with, encourage, and support Christians across the globe who minister in many different boardsports.

Why the need for a boardsports ministry? As with all hardcore boardsports enthusiasts, surfers are a very tight knit counterculture. They relate to other surfers who understand them and “speak their language”. Having grown up as passionate surfers in our area has given us a tremendous ability to impact other local surfers. Many we have known since childhood, and they can see the profound difference the Lord has made in our lives since we became Christians! We have a HUGE heart for the “lost” and understand from personal experience the consequences of living apart from the Lord and His will. As Jesus instructed the formerly demon possessed man, “Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” Mark 5:19

At the present time we are in the process of raising support to enable us to be full time missionaries and allow the ministry to grow in God's time. Right now, our ministries include...

- Coaching the Palos Verdes High School surf team (reaching 35 local surf kids and their families!)
- Running a separate youth surfing program called the “Grom Squad”, where we coach kids in amateur competitions, do photo shoots, surf trips, and other get togethers (16 kids and their families)
- Serving and doing hospitality for local surf contests (developing relationships through local community outreach)
- Organizing local, national, and international mission and discipleship trips for youth and families (upcoming trips to New Orleans, Hawaii, Nicaragua, Alaska, Mexico).



***“Grom Squad Ministry”***

If you would like to learn more about Global Boardsports Ministries, please contact Kirk Lantz at 310-713-0161 or email [seekingsurfer@hotmail.com](mailto:seekingsurfer@hotmail.com).