

PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

CUBA

SIZE/AREA 110,861 sq. km.

LITERACY RATE 99%

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE..... Spanish

ECONOMY

Sugar production, along with the rest of the economy, collapsed with the Soviet meltdown as aid and subsidies dried up. The US trade embargo, devastating hurricanes, repressive centralized socialist planning, corruption and poor productivity hamper progress. Lack of many essentials (including food) still affects the country, yet there is a high standard in literacy, education and health. Tourism is becoming more and more economically important.

**POLITICS**

Independent from Spain in 1898, Castro's revolution brought Communism to power in 1959, replacing a corrupt and venal regime. After decades of exporting revolution to Latin America and Africa, Cuba remains one of the last protagonists of Communism. An ailing Fidel Castro passed along power to his brother, Raul Castro (now President), in 2008. Subsequent economic reform has not been accompanied by civil or political change; political opposition remains illegal despite increasing dissident activity, prompting emigration and pervasive hopelessness.

RELIGION

Strict control of all church activities and repression of religious freedom in the earlier years of Communist rule, but since 1990 the degree of pressure has lessened. A secular rather than atheist state, discrimination against Christians is illegal. But discrimination and harassment continue as growing churches are often perceived as a threat to regime stability. The Cuban Council of Churches is the protestant umbrella body sanctioned by the regime. It endorses an expression of faith more in keeping with the revolutionary ideals of the regime, including liberation theology.

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION BREAKDOWN

Evangelical 9%
 Roman Catholic 48% (most are not attending)
 Spiritist 18%
 Non-Religious 25%

PRAYER:

- Fruitful and faithful evangelism for [East-West Ministries](#)' trip this week, including one of Providence Church's own members
- IMB & other Christian effort to meet physical & spiritual needs after devastation from hurricane Sandy ([MORE](#))
- Christians still suffering various types of [persecution](#)