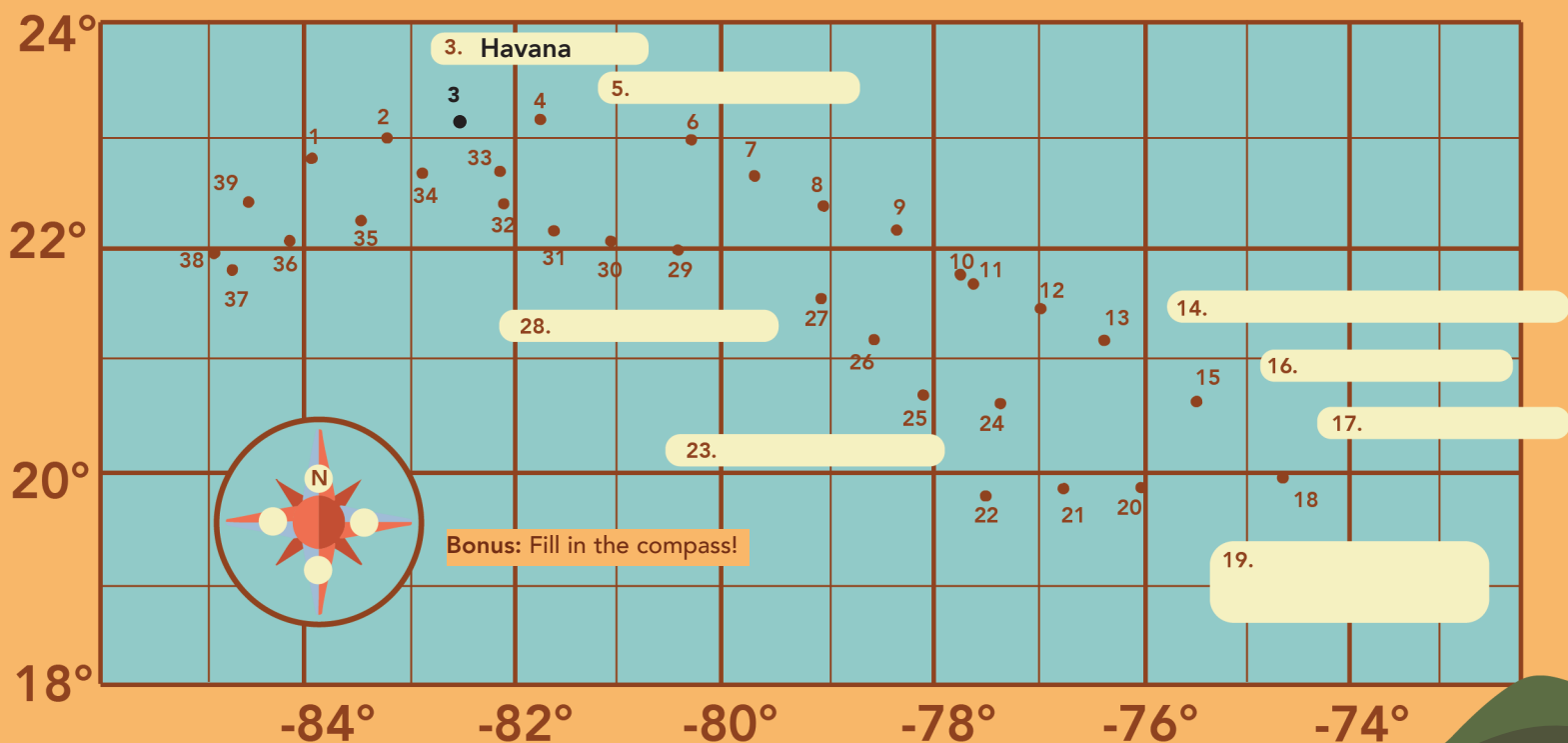


Cuba

TABLE TALK

Cuban Connection!

How to Play: Connect the dots to complete the map outline of Cuba. Then plot Cuba's major cities on the map by using the provided latitude and longitude coordinates. Be sure to add the city names. An answer key and printables are available online at: vomcanada.com/TableTalkCuba



Hint: When plotting the points, always start with the first number (latitude) and then the second (longitude).

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE COORDINATES:

EXAMPLE: Dot 3 (23.1, -82.4): The capital city of Havana not only happens to be Cuba's largest, but it also serves as the country's major coastal port and leading commercial centre.

YOUR TURN: Dot 5 (23.2, -81.2): Varadero, a resort town in the Cuban province of Matanzas, is one of the largest resort areas in the Caribbean.

Dot 14 (21.1, -75.8): Guardalavaca is a tourist town that's known for its fine sandy beaches, clear water and abundant sea life.

Dot 16 (20.7, -75): Moa is an industrial city with large mining operations for the extraction of nickel and cobalt.

Dot 17 (20.3, -74.5): Baracoa is Cuba's oldest and easternmost city.

Dot 19 (19.9, -75.1): The Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in southern Cuba is the oldest American overseas naval base in the world.

Dot 23 (20.3, -77.1): Manzanillo is a historical town that's richly decorated with tile mosaics dating back to the 1910s and 1920s.

Dot 28 (21.8, -80): The city of Trinidad is known for its old town and cobblestone streets.

Helpful Tip: To remember the difference between latitude and longitude, think of a ladder. The latitude lines are like the horizontal rungs of the ladder, and the longitude lines are like the "long" poles that hold those rungs together.

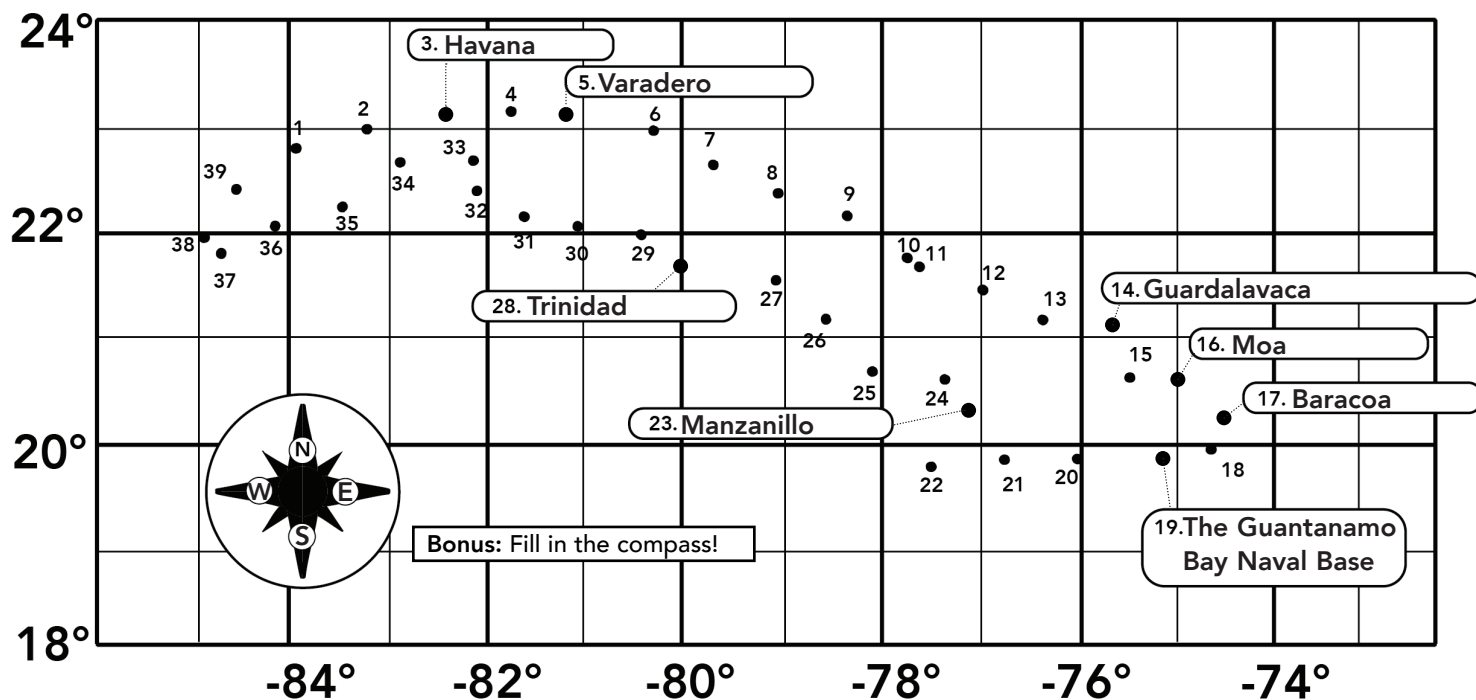
Cuba

TABLE TALK

ANSWERS

Cuban Connection!

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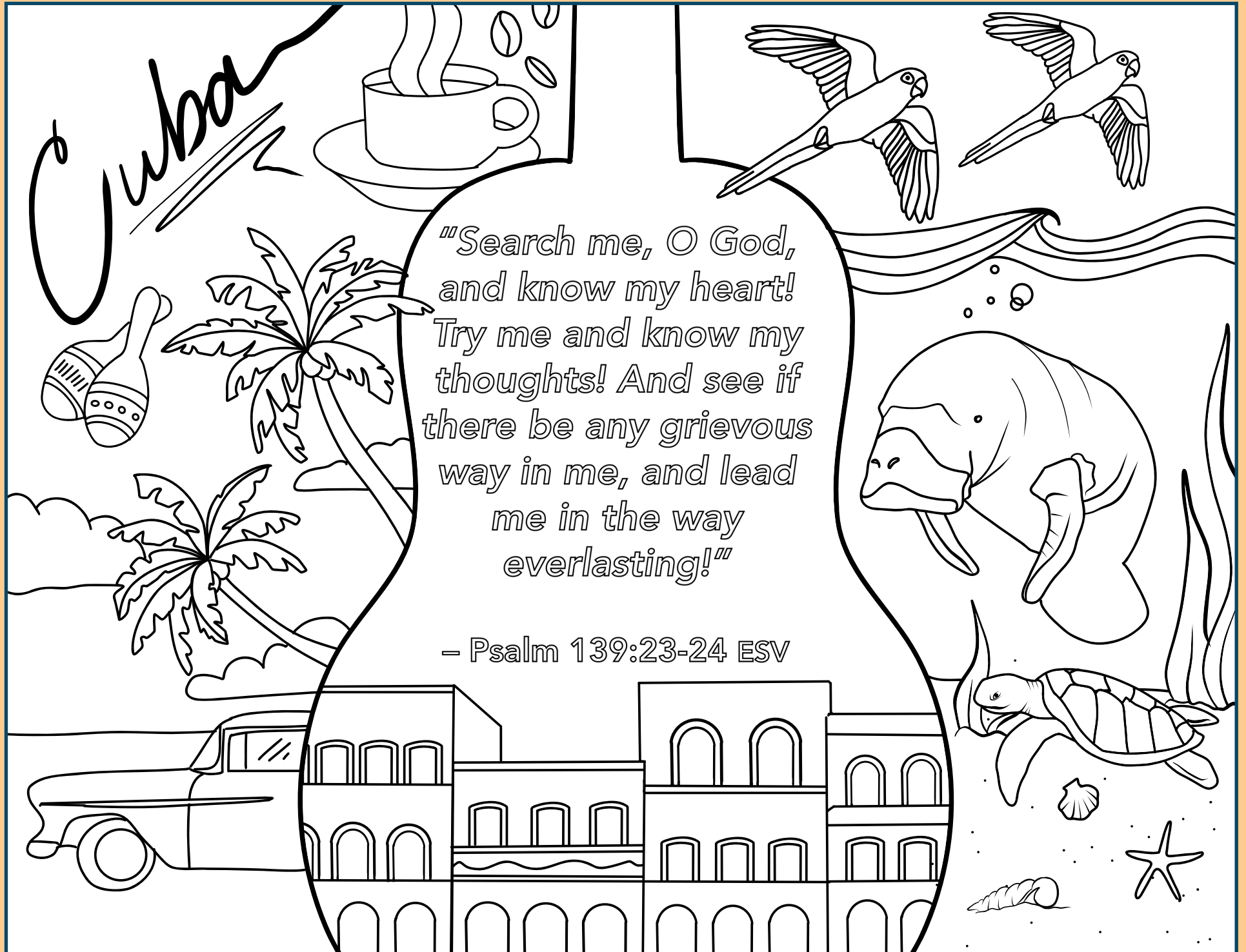
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Start with Your Heart



November 2024

His Way *"Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!" – Psalm 139:23-24 ESV*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 NIGER Pray that Christians living in rural areas of the country will have access to Bibles.	2 INDONESIA Pray that Gabriel and Noni, the only believers in their village, will continue to stand firm in their faith.
3 ERITREA Pray for Christians who have been released from prison, as many of them are blacklisted by governing officials.	4 YEMEN Pray that converts facing accusations of proselytism and blasphemy after leaving Islam will be filled with peace.	5 CUBA Pray that Christian leaders will rely on the Holy Spirit's guidance when they are called in for questioning.	6 PAKISTAN Pray that blasphemy laws, which have been used to persecute the country's Christians, will be revoked.	7 UGANDA Pray that Bible distributions will reach Christians in areas where there are great spiritual needs.	8 SOUTHERN MEXICO Pray that God's Word will be available in every indigenous language so many more people groups will be reached.	9 NORTH KOREA Pray for the success of Bible-smuggling efforts in North Korea, asking God to touch the hearts of all the recipients.
10 INDIA Pray for Sukbait, a Christian widow who occasionally must face the assailants who killed her husband.	11 TÜRKIYE (TURKEY) Ask God for a spiritual breakthrough to take place, resulting in many Turks surrendering their lives to Christ.	12 NIGERIA Pray for Pastor Mutum, a church leader who has received multiple death threats because of his Christian witness.	13 BRUNEI As Bibles in the Malay language are illegal – and confiscated if found – pray for increased access to God's Word.	14 LIBYA Pray that Christians who are in prison because of their faith will sense God's presence and comfort.	15 PHILIPPINES Praise God that Bible school graduates are now more equipped to share the Gospel in their communities.	16 MOROCCO Pray that underground church fellowships will remain undetected by governing authorities.
17 ISRAEL (INCLUDING WEST BANK & GAZA) Pray for an increase in Bible distributions, evangelism, discipleship and church-planting efforts.	18 LEBANON Pray for God's Spirit to move among militant groups such as Hezbollah, al-Qaida and the self-proclaimed Islamic State (ISIS).	19 IRAN Pray that local pastors will receive the practical and theological instructions they need to lead their house churches.	20 CHINA Pray that shepherds of house churches will have the wisdom and grace to lead well, resulting in further growth.	21 CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Pray for churches that are caring for the country's hundreds of thousands of internally displaced people.	22 BANGLADESH Pray that God will meet the needs of Christians who have been driven from their homes for serving Christ.	23 TUNISIA Pray for wisdom on behalf of Tunisian church leaders as they shepherd their small congregations.
24 KAZAKHSTAN Pray that believers will remain joyful amid challenges and become more equipped to minister to others.	25 EGYPT Pray for the wisdom and courage of believers who take great risks to disciple Christian converts from Islam.	26 MYANMAR (BURMA) Most Burmese Bibles are smuggled into the country. Pray that every Christian will be able to receive their own copy.	27 DR CONGO Pray that Islamic militants will peaceably lay down their arms and surrender to Christ's Lordship.	28 MAURITANIA Pray that the country's Islamic leaders will repeal laws that prohibit conversion to Christianity.	29 DJIBOUTI Ask the Lord to inspire Christians to share the "Good News" of the Gospel with their unsaved neighbours.	30 KENYA Pray that many Somalis living in Kenya will hear the Gospel message and come to know Christ as their Saviour.



Voice of the
Martyrs



CURIOUS ABOUT Cuba



ONE WAY

A major precept of communism lays in its emphatic teaching against original sin and moral absolutes. Vladimir Lenin, the first political leader of Soviet Russia to establish communism out of Marxism, unashamedly declared, "We must be ready to employ tricking, deceit and lawbreaking," as well as "withholding and concealing truth."¹ Communism is unapologetically atheistic in its belief that there is no God. Perceived as mere products of time and chance, humans are considered dispensable. Communist governments will do whatever it takes to promote their agenda, even if it involves the disposing of valuable human life and freedom.

One key element that separates Christianity from every other worldview and religion is its value for human life and the acknowledgment of original sin. According to the Bible, all people are created in the image of God.² As such, humankind is worthy of respect, dignity and significance. Unlike the rest of creation, we have the freedom to think, feel, reason and make choices – including the decision to enjoy fellowship with God on a personal level.



WAY OUT

VOMC's 2024 Christmas Blessing project involves sharing the love and hope of the Gospel with over 5,000 children from Christian families in persecuted nations. Each recipient of the project will receive a backpack containing school supplies, hygienic essentials, a T-shirt with a Godly message, a Bible, and more.... For further details about this project, please visit:

www.vomcanada.com/ChristmasBlessing

This month, we challenge you to host a bake sale to raise funds for the Christmas Blessing project and raise awareness of Christian persecution. Consider providing some helpful information so people can learn about the challenges encountered by Christians in persecuted nations and how they can pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Sources:

<https://latitude.to/map/cu/cuba/cities>

<https://www.google.ca/maps>

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Cuban-missile-crisis>

<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/cuba/>

<https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/countries/cuba/>

Endnotes: ¹ Questions People Ask by Robert James McCracken, pp. 168–169 ² Genesis 1:27

WEIGH IN

1. Cuba is well-known for having an abundance of classic American cars, many of which are over 60 years old. Since new cars are so expensive, maintaining the older vehicles has proven to be much more cost-effective for the Cuban people.

Ponder the phrase: "Necessity is the mother of invention." Out of necessity, Cubans have to keep cars from the 1960s or older running, which requires innovative solutions. Do you think some significant needs or problems can actually be considered valuable – potentially leading to new ideas or inventions? Discuss this possibility.

2. In 1962, the former Soviet Union shipped numerous nuclear missiles to Cuba, causing a worldwide panic known as the Cuban Missile Crisis. Narrowly escaping a major nuclear war, the United States helped end this conflict peacefully.

Conflicts often have consequences. Research the "Cuban Missile Crisis" and theorize at least one short-term effect, as well as a long-term one, that was created by this conflict. For example, a long-term effect that can be discussed is how the crisis led to the world's initial awareness of nuclear warfare.

3. Since Cuba is a Communist country, the government has strict control over all forms of media, including that of television, radio and the Internet. This results in the inability to broadcast many Christian programs legally.

Christians are often forced to broadcast their media programs in secret to avoid being scrutinized by the government. Is it considered immoral for these believers to intentionally break the law by broadcasting their Christian programs without governmental approval? Find at least two Scripture verses to support your conclusion.

4. The Cuban government frequently sends spies to monitor the activities of Christian churches, specifically targeting believers who are genuine followers of Christ.

Based on what you've learned about Communist ideology, what is one main Biblical concept that threatens the government of Cuba, and thus motivates the authorities to crush Christianity? Hint: Read Genesis 3:7 and ask yourself, "Why was it Adam and Eve's first reaction to cover themselves?"



Recommended Reads:

All the Way to Havana by Margarita Engle (Ages 4-8)

The Bluest Sky by Christina Diaz Gonzalez (Ages 10-14)

Mama Bear Apologetics by Hillary Morgan Ferrer (Adult)





Christmas Blessing 2024



In collaboration with VOM USA, Voice of the Martyrs Canada is working with on-the-ground ministry partners to bless more than 5,000 children during the upcoming Christmas season. The project's primary objective is for children to receive Christmas gifts that will not only bless them practically but also minister to them spiritually.

Each child will be given a backpack containing school supplies, toys, hygienic essentials, and a T-shirt featuring a Godly message. Most importantly, the inclusion of a Bible in every backpack will allow each of the children to read the Gospel in their own language, receive greatly needed encouragement, and be reminded of the Lord's tremendous love for them.

The backpacks will be distributed by a team of multi-denominational Christian leaders in vari-

ous regions, primarily targeting areas where the needs are greatest. Due to a severe lack of resources, many families in these communities are not able to afford several of the items that will be provided in the backpacks – including difficult-to-access school supplies such as notebooks, paper, glue, cellulose tape, etc.



In a country where children are under relentless pressure to reject the Christian faith and instead embrace atheism, this distribution project seeks to share the love, hope and truth of the Gospel in both practical and meaningful ways. Additionally, as copies of God's Word are extremely limited, the provided Bibles will be greatly cherished gifts for not

only these children but also the members of their persecuted families. 🙏



If you would like to contribute to this year's Christmas Blessing project, please contact:
www.vomcanada.com/ChristmasBlessing
1-888-298-6423

