

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)

