

**News and Current Events :: 83,000 Bibles Sent to Cuba to Keep Up With 'Incredible' Growth of Christianity****83,000 Bibles Sent to Cuba to Keep Up With 'Incredible' Growth of Christianity - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2015/3/23 23:30**

A shipment of 83,723 Spanish-language Bibles are headed for Cuba and will be distributed to a number of Southern Baptist churches in both Western and Eastern parts of the island nation, SBC's International Mission Board announced this week.

IMB, which is an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention, announced that the shipment of three 40-foot containers filled with Bibles left from the ports of South Florida and is being distributed this week to various churches throughout Cuba. The announcement added that the Bibles will arrive in the capital of Havana on March 25.

The shipment is the third since 1999 that Southern Baptists have sent to Cuba and have sent nearly 500,000 Bibles in total, IMB strategy leader for Cuba, Kurt Urbanek, said in a media statement.

Urbanek added that this shipment is the first that will be shipped directly from the United States, saying that clearance was provided in late 2014.

"The extensive process of seeking permission from the Cuban government to ship Bibles required a great deal of negotiation with government officials and the Cuban Bible Society," Urbanek explained in the release. "We are grateful the Cuban government opened the doors for the Bibles."

Since the Cuban government amended its Constitution in 1992, declaring it a secular state, instead of an atheist state, religious activities have been given room to grow and flourish.

"The growth is so incredible, that's why Bibles are so important," Urbanek said.

Seventy-five percent of the Bibles will be distributed to two ministries. The Havana-based Western Cuba Baptist Convention will get 32,000 Bibles, while the Santiago-based Eastern Cuba Baptist Convention, which reported nearly 30,000 professions of faith in 2014 and has opened over 1,300 house churches in the last few years, will also get 32,000 Bibles.

"With the Eastern Convention reporting 29,063 professions of faith in 2014, the missionary noted that the Bibles potentially will cover the new Christians and only a few more," the release stated.

IMB attributes the resources used for the distribution as a coordinated effort between LifeWay Christian Resources, Florida Baptist Convention, Church by the Glades in Coral Springs, Florida and other groups and individuals. LifeWay donated 60,000 Bibles. IMB provided the project with \$100,000.

from: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/83000-bibles-sent-to-cuba-to-keep-up-with-incredible-growth-of-christianity-136042/>

**Re: 83,000 Bibles Sent to Cuba to Keep Up With 'Incredible' Growth of Christianity - posted by Theophila (), on: 2015/3/23 23:30**

Blessed be God for the saints in Cuba.

But I do wonder as to the purpose/utility of such announcements.

If bibles were going to China or Saudi Arabia, I hope no one would announce it.

I do apologize in advance if my words cause offense.

**Re: - posted by ArthurRosh, on: 2015/3/24 18:06**

Great news! Especially about the house churches.

**Re: 83,000 Bibles Sent to Cuba to Keep Up With 'Incredible' Growth of Chris - posted by dolfan (), on: 2015/3/24 18:51**

Quote:  
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Doesn't the announcement clearly say the gov't permitted the shipment?

**Re: , on: 2015/3/24 19:01**

That's fantastic. I rallied my church in my youth and we ended up smuggling hundreds of bibles to Venezuela. They were desperate for the word. And I'm sure the fruit is abundant there.

80 thousand. Wow. Just remarkable. I pray their hearts are open to the blessing we all know it can bring.

SBC and others did a great job making this happen. Fantastic.