

## Street Prayer-Evangelism in Old Havana

Pray for Philippe who is Santa Ria. Serious occult. Desperately alone. Asked 'did you find a friend in Santa Ria?' No he admitted. Not one. We told him Jesus came to befriend the desolate and lonely. I will bring him to church Sunday. I pray for him at length. Following this, Allen shared with a young Chinese med student. She asked if we could give her a bible. Pray also for Ariel and Katrina. Katrina challenged me... "You cannot know if there is a life after this?" I explain the only way I know about God and eternal life is "Because I have met him" Interested but less open.

More evangelism in Havana. I walk into the Partagas cigar factory and sit down at a counter. **Jack and Cheungloke** lively and friendly young Chinese couple are seated at the bar. Jack is enjoying a Cuban cigar. I join them. For about an hour we discuss media and meaning. They are unplugged to get a break from busy life in Hong Kong and Shanghai. Cheunglok says 'it is easier not to think share how you want to be happy. They say 'we have no time for social life and conversation. The kitchen and making meals is the only place to escape the exhausting business. Some take yoga classes but a few hours of 'trying to think about nothing' jack says 'does not provide relief. People still look sad. 'Isolation is a big problem'.

We talk about the 'endless circle' of life today. Cheungloke asks 'how can you get out of it?' I share how meditation is about escape. Prayer is about power to face life and its weariness and meaningless busyness. They listen intent entry and ask questions as I share how I was lost in an 'endless circle'. I try drugs partying even work to escape. It all leads to lostness and emptiness. I describe my life before prayer and how God lifted my hopeless anxiety and filled my emptiness I was in a convent garden with a circular path- inviting to pray. With a cross behind me I say my first prayer. Life is now a matter of power to have courage and hope. We exchange emails. They want to read my testimony 'life before prayer'. Cheungloke says. 'Many need to hear this. They gladly give me their emails. Sweet! Please pray for Jack and Cheungloke

**Havana conversation.:** my translator is Gary who is a professor from Costa Rica. Lazarus tells us he prays- each morning for his dead brother and afternoon for his sister. I asked who did he pray to God? Jesus? Mary?

He said 'just God'. I explained how our prayer is most effective when we pray in Jesus name because he prays with us. He says 'this is interesting'. I go on to say that we can do much more than ask God for things- Jesus opened the way to the heart of God so we can be with him. In God forever. 'How can I do this?' I go on to say that our sins keep us outside Gods heart but Jesus died to forgive our sins. Forever and forever. 'How can I receive this?' I tell him to give his heart to Jesus. Ask him to bring you into the heart of God. Two of his friends scowl at this discussion. I ask if he wants to join us at church tomorrow. 'What time? Where? Yes I would like to. I point to the street and tell him I will wait at the back for him. Gary is beaming- and is amazed how 'easy and friendly' the conversation has gone. He added a lot of helpful insights- i could tell. I got to pray a prayer asking for Jesus to open Lazarus heart and bring him into the heart of God. **Please pray for Lazarus.** John

**Havana conversation.** **Louis and Horheh** are old men sitting on a bench. We just say hi and Louis says 'please sit'. Horheh moves over to make room. We ask a bunch of Questions and find Horheh is devout Catholic- clearly devoted to Jesus. The Catholic Church is also experiencing very significant growth. Older Cubans remember the faith. Louis is something of a scholar- very articulate and familiar with the Bible which he has read a number of times. He stopped going to church some time ago because of some disagreements. I invited him to come to church tomorrow to be renewed in Jesus love and the love of his people. He politely declined. What most moved me and my translator friend was how they were so grateful we would take. 30 minutes to talk with them. 'We came today and had no expectation of any conversation Thank you. Thank you.' Big smiles on their faces. We blessed them and Horheh let us pray for him