



IT'S NOT THEM, IT'S US

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MAIS

Who We Are?

The Mission in Support of the Suffering Church (MAIS) was established in 2010, following the earthquake that resulted in thousands of deaths and displaced people in Haiti. Since then, it has been present in over 30 countries, working in post-catastrophe relief, community development, and refugee support.

Currently, MAIS is a missionary organization that operates directly and strategically in countries where there is religious persecution. Our goal is to promote the resilience of the Suffering Church, supporting our brothers and sisters in remaining a light in their context. We are present in various countries, engaging in activities such as refugee support and community development through microcredit in areas experiencing religious persecution.

“If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the other parts rejoice with it.” — 1 Corinthians 12:26

Mission

Transform suffering into hope by empowering persecuted Christians, supporting their families, and providing what is necessary for the advancement of the Gospel, inspiring commitment to Christ around the world.

Vision

Based on 1 Corinthians 12:26, we will support the Suffering Church until the return of Christ, being the voice of persecuted Christians in all Brazilian states, uniting and training the Brazilian Church in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Values

Our core values include faith in Christ, love, and unwavering commitment to persecuted Christians, respect for human dignity, solid integrity, and a firm commitment to God's mission.





Mother's Day celebration at the MAIS Mission base in Almirante Tamandaré/PR. A refugee being embraced by a worker.

Brazilian Base

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CTMAIS 2024:

Dare to Be the Answer!

On February 5, we launched the 19th class of the MAIS Training Center (CTMAIS). This course is designed for the missiological training of young adults and adults who have a minimum of 2 years of faith journey and have been "sent" by a local church.

Thus, eleven young people made the significant decision to set aside their personal desires in order to dedicate ten months of their lives to obeying God's call. A couple with two children, four men, and five women left their homes to live at the MAIS Mission base, embarking on an extraordinary period of learning and closer contact with the suffering church. These individuals dared to be the answer to God's call!

During the first semester, the students attended numerous theoretical classes with renowned professors, participated in devotional times, worship services, and base maintenance. Additionally, on weekends, they served four local churches by assisting with church projects, evangelism, and engaging in fellowship with the congregation.



Perseverance and Faith Amidst Repression.

The communist government in Cuba views Christian faith as a threat to its revolutionary ideology, imposing intense pressure and strict control over religious activities. Churches face severe supervision, and religious leaders who disobey restrictions or challenge state doctrines risk severe sanctions, such as interrogations and imprisonment. Additionally, the construction of new churches and the holding of religious meetings are strictly regulated and often prohibited, forcing many congregations to operate clandestinely.

For Christians, practicing their faith in Cuba is a significant challenge, especially due to restrictions on access to the Bible and Christian literature. Churches face severe sanctions, such as fines, demolition,

and closure of properties. Even authorized churches are under intense surveillance and may have government agents infiltrated within.

Religious leaders may be imprisoned, fined, and have their properties destroyed, as well as face difficulties with travel and discrimination in the Armed Forces. Repression directly impacts the finances of families who rely on support from relatives abroad.

Today, life in Cuba is already difficult due to shortages of food, medical treatment, medications, and other resources. For Christians, this situation is even more challenging due to the pressure exerted by government officials, political parties, ideological pressure groups, and even Cuban citizens.



Brazilian Base



“Clothe yourself with strength and dignity; smile at the future.”

Pv 31:25

The refugee women at our base in Brazil, from Afghanistan and Cuba, have faced significant challenges in their countries of origin. They endured religious persecution imposed by the Taliban and political repression and lack of fundamental rights by the government, which drove them to seek a new home. Both realities highlight these women's struggle for dignity and justice, as well as their strength and courage.

On this International Women's Day, we

celebrate the bravery of these women who have confronted adversity with courage and dignity. They show us that even in the most difficult conditions, it is possible to find hope and purpose, with a smile that symbolizes determination and faith in a more just future. True appreciation of women goes beyond physical appearance, reflecting their values, attitudes, character, and faith.

May we draw inspiration from the courage of these women.





Brazilian Base



A New Generation: The Birth of Afghan Babies in Brazil.

The first semester of the year was filled with joy and excitement with the birth of two babies. Sarah was born on February 1, and Shahran on May 23.

The mothers, refugees from Afghanistan, experienced high-risk pregnancies and required special monitoring and care throughout their gestation. Sarah arrived to bring even more joy to a family with seven children, while Shahran brought happiness to his mother, who had suffered multiple miscarriages, being the couple's third child.

Throughout the pregnancies, as an organization, we provided care for the expectant mothers. There were

numerous medical appointments, along with medications, tests, and all necessary support to ensure the babies were born on time and in good health.

With the arrival of these two babies, we now have seven Afghan-Brazilian babies born in a free country, where a new generation grows up without persecution, embraced by love and hope.

The arrival of these children symbolizes not only the continuity of life but also renewed hope for families who have faced immense challenges. These babies represent the strength and resilience of refugees who can now dream of a better future for their children.

Nowruz

A symbol of new life, a new beginning.

This year, Nowruz, the Persian New Year, was celebrated on March 20. For the third time, the occasion was celebrated with refugees at the base in Brazil.

The celebration featured Afghan music, traditional foods, decorations, traditional clothing, love, and, of course, plenty of laughter.

Missionary, students and refugees, both adults and children, gathered for a grand celebration to honor the culture of our brothers and sisters in faith.

The event was a beautiful and lively party, warming the hearts of our brothers and sisters who are far from their country, family, homes, and the many things they left behind when they were forced to leave Afghanistan. The celebration truly symbolized a new beginning.



Afghan and Brazilian women, dressed in traditional clothing, dancing to Afghan music.



Afghan children in traditional clothing enjoying time with family and friends.



Men, women, the elderly, adults, and children, all together enjoying the celebration.





Base Brasil

“Because I live,
you will live
also.”

John 14:19

The death that gave us life.

On Sunday, March 31, refugees, students, and workers gathered as a family in faith to worship the Lord. Together, we praised and celebrated God for the gift of His only Son, who died on the cross for our sins and rose on the third day, for death could not hold Him, as He was without sin.

We can celebrate and live in intimacy

with God because the veil was torn (Mt 27:51), granting us free access to the Father through Jesus Christ. Thus, Afghans, Brazilians, Cubans, and all in Christ are part of the same family (Eph 2:18-22).

It was a day of worship and communion, offering our persecuted brothers and sisters an open Easter celebration, something they had never experienced before.

Mother's Day: Love Beyond Borders.

A Redefined Date.

On May 12, we celebrated Mother's Day in Brazil. This date honors the maternal figure and motherhood. For the refugees, this year had a special significance as they are in a free country where the maternal figure is valued, contrasting with the reality in Afghanistan, where it is not recognized at all.

This year, we organized an afternoon tea to enjoy the moment with Afghan and Brazilian "moms" living at the base. It was a light-hearted afternoon filled with

laughter and sharing of life stories.

Many women are in Brazil with some of their children while others are spread across various countries such as Germany, Australia, Iran, and the United States. Some of them haven't seen their children in years, yet their love for each one transcends physical distance.

A The celebration also featured a special moment for the mothers: a performance by the Olaria Children's Choir, a project by the Igreja Presbiteriana Olaria in Curitiba/PR, with children from

the community. The children gave a beautiful tribute to the Afghan mothers with songs celebrating Mother's Day.

After the performance, we had a message delivered by Pastor Paulo Camargo, with translation provided by a refugee to ensure everyone could understand and fully enjoy the moment.

In this way, the various celebrations made this date even more meaningful for the women, allowing them to feel truly loved and valued. The goal was to recognize not only the role of mothers but also the importance and uniqueness of each woman in her entirety.



Afternoon tea with refugee mothers, students, and workers.



Performance by the Olaria Children's Choir.



Brazilian Base

“SERVIR MAIS”

On June 14th, 15th, and 16th, we had the privilege of hosting the Missions team from PIB Curitiba (First Baptist Church of Curitiba) at our base in Brazil. They came with the “Boa Obra” Project, which is part of the Baptist Association of Social Action. Alongside them, about 60 volunteers dedicated their weekend to serving God through their work.

The “Boa Obra” Project aims to use architecture as a tool to impact society and ensure that Christian projects have suitable and high-quality spaces to carry out their activities. Through the initiative titled “Servir MAIS,” several revitalization and renovation activities were carried out in the City of Refuge (an area within the base where we provide housing, medical care, classrooms, and recreational activities for our refugee brothers and sisters).

During this time, workers, students, volunteers, and members of the Boa Obra Project worked diligently with their skills and talents. Various activities were completed, including painting and restoring the playground, creating artistic panels on classroom walls, medical clinics, and housing units. The sports court, a favorite spot for refugees, was also restored with floor painting and the installation of goals and posts for future netting. Classrooms received new cabinets, desks, chairs, and tables for the children. The recreation area, which refugees used improvised spaces for tea and campfires, was upgraded with a deck and a proper fire pit area.

We can only express our gratitude for the dedication, care, and willingness in this collaborative effort to support God's mission. We are thankful to everyone involved, both directly and indirectly, in this action that contributes to the maintenance of the projects and initiatives of Mission MAIS. Together, we combine our efforts for the Kingdom of God.



CUBA:

Testimony of Faith

My name is Ruth, I am Cuban and 50 years old. My mother knew the love of God from the age of five, thanks to a Pentecostal pastor who gathered children from her neighborhood to take them to Sunday school. At home, she was the only one who had decided to follow Christ.

In 1959, when the Revolution triumphed, she began studying at a school where Christian materials were prohibited. Out of fear, she kept silent about her beliefs, hid her Bible, and after a major accident, she regretted denying God, left the school, and decided never to make that mistake again.

In 1968, she traveled to Pinar del Río to care for her newborn sister. She immediately sought out a Baptist church where she met my father, whom she married in 1969. Together, they taught me and my siblings **to love and respect God in any situation, no matter the cost.**

When we started studying, problems began. At that time, being religious affected your academic record. It was not possible to apply for certain professional careers such as education or military careers (aviation, engineering, law). To pursue a career in medicine, for example, you had to be the best without discussion.

Some teachers were sensitive and helped us by saying they would omit that we were Christians; however, others were very aggressive. From a young age, my siblings



Ruth, a Cuban refugee living in freedom at the MAIS base.



and I suffered discrimination for being Christians.

My sister, when she was in the first year of high school, after taking three exams to enter the preparatory school for scientists in Cuba, 'made a mistake' by saying she was a Christian and was rejected. When my parents requested a review of the situation, they had no choice but to grant her a scholarship because her grades were excellent.

After some time, fearing international criticism, we were allowed to study education. Thanks be to God, I was able to enter that field. But while there, I faced difficulties with some teachers who did not allow me to talk about God and **threatened me with sanctions**. The UJC (Union of Communist Youth) even sanctioned a friend of mine because of his friendship with a religious person.

While working as a teacher, the school administration reprimanded me for teaching the Bible and singing religious songs during breaks. When evaluating my annual work, my score was sometimes lowered simply because I was a Christian.

I was **oppressed** in Cuba for being a Christian; the Cuban government does not like people who deviate from its criteria. In presidential elections, constitutional changes, and public places where we are given the opportunity to express our opinions, we are marginalized and humiliated because of our faith.

As a mother, I have felt sadness seeing my children suffer. They are labeled as criminals for not wanting to be like Che Guevara, for speaking out against social evils, for placing their Christian principles above all else, and for being morally upright.

God is faithful, He took care of us amid persecution and provided a way out in every circumstance so that we could continue preaching the Gospel without dishonoring Him. To God be the glory!





PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH,

PRAY FOR CUBA!

PRAY THAT CHURCHES CLOSED BY CIVIL AUTHORITIES
WILL BE PERMITTED TO REOPEN.

PRAY FOR CHURCH LEADERS, PASTORS, AND CHRISTIANS
WHO FACE GOVERNMENTAL OPPRESSION.

PRAY THAT THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE GOSPEL WILL NOT
HAVE THE POWER TO HINDER ITS PROGRESS.

PRAY FOR CHRISTIANS WHO ARE DETAINED FOR
INTERROGATION, HARASSED, OR FINED.

PRAY FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY
WHO ATTACK AND ANTAGONIZE THE CHURCH, ASKING
THAT THEY MIGHT FIND A PATH TO UNDERSTANDING
AND TRANSFORMATION.

“Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those
who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.”

Hebrews 13: 3



MAIS Store

"It's Not Them, It's Us!"

A The MAIS store was created with the goal of giving a voice to the Suffering Church. Through the products we produce and sell, we raise funds o bless



the lives of countless persecuted Christians who suffer daily.

Our products are one way to respond to the prayers of those who cry out for help and support. They remind us that, as free Christians, we have the responsibility to serve this cause and to be the voice that echoes Christ among the nations.

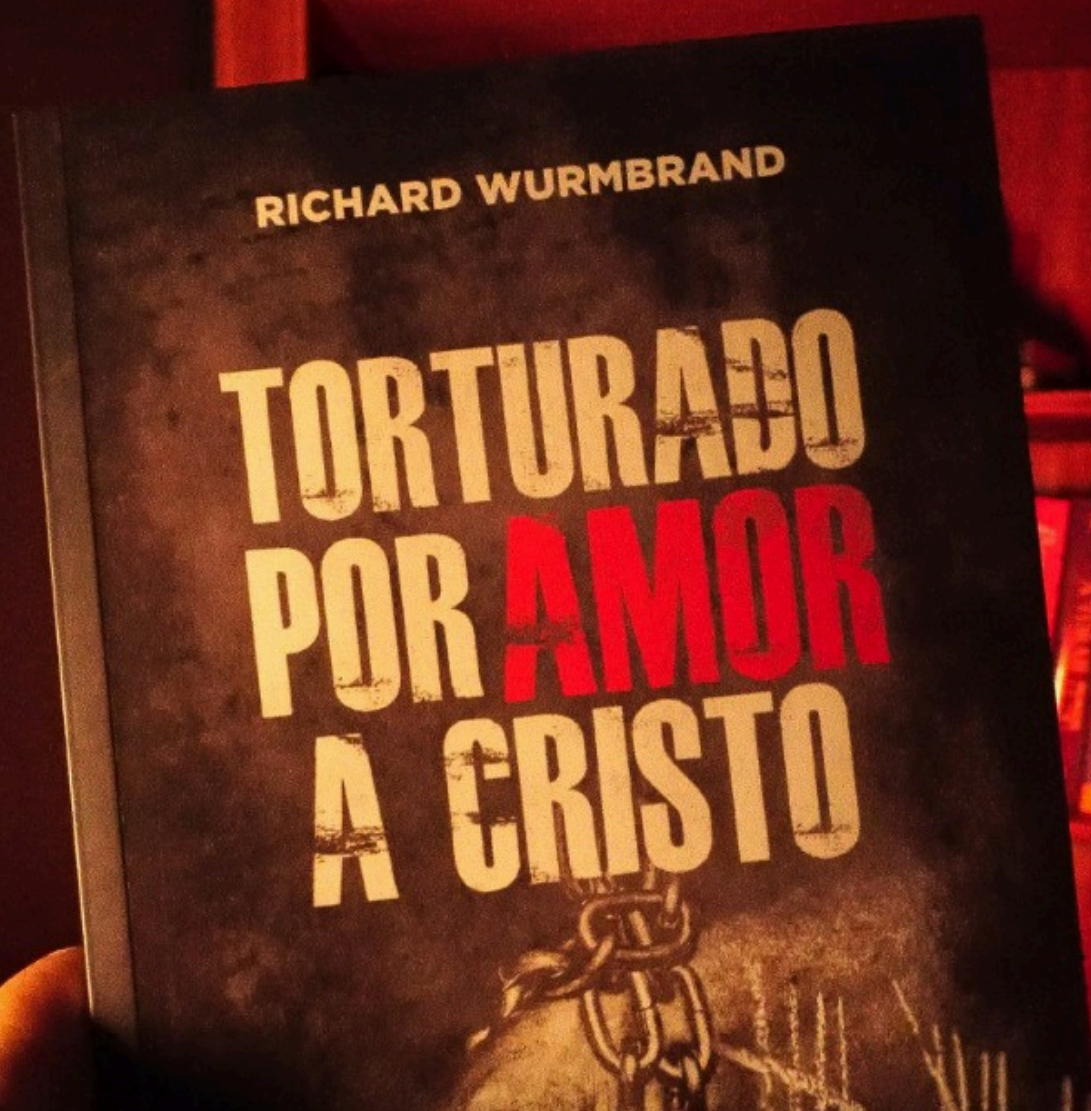
Support this cause by purchasing one of our new t-shirt designs and carry the fight for the persecuted church with you! Join this mission, which belongs not only to the persecuted Christians but to all of us. For if one part of the body suffers, every part suffers with it (1 Corinthians 12:26).

Visit our website and get one of our products now!



www.lojadamais.com.br





Tortured for Love of Christ

The book written by Richard Wurmbbrand movingly describes the persecution and suffering faced by Christians in Romania due to communism during the Cold War. Richard Wurmbbrand, the author and main character of the work, was a Lutheran pastor who spent 14 years in prison because of his faith in Christ, and he shares his experiences of suffering and faith.

The work addresses persecution, faith testimony, and provides a portrayal of religious oppression, as well as presenting inspiring stories. It also makes a call for support for persecuted Christians around the world.

The book was re-released this year by Missão MAIS and is available in our online store (www.lojadamais.com.br). Get your copy now and learn more from this transformative testimony!

DARE TO BE THE ANSWER

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