

**THE YEAR 2006, THE PATH OF LIBERATION
AND FRATERNITY FOR CUBA
CHRISTIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT**

A review of 2005 would be very lengthy and, although it is important to reflect on the achievements and suffering endured by the Cuban people, it is much more important and optimistic to look toward the future with hope.

Despite the ongoing persecution of citizens that signed the proposal for the Varela Project Referendum, this campaign moves forward throughout all of Cuba. It lives on first and foremost because it continues to be now more than ever, the Cuban solution among Cubans, a peaceful and participatory one, which Cuba wants and needs. This is the reason why the majority of its organizers, including those that are unjustly suffering in prison, continue to promote the Varela Project campaign because it represents the path to winning the rights of all Cubans. The Varela Project campaign is the campaign for Human Rights, for reconciliation and for freedom. It is and will continue to be the hope sustained by thousands of Cubans that defy fear in order to contribute to a more dignified and more just future for all.

Thousands of compatriots inside and outside of Cuba participated and continue to participate in the National Dialogue campaign, offering their contributions so as to design a transition proposal amongst Cubans. With the results of this dialogue, a Drafting Commission made up of Cuban citizens that work in Cuba will be finishing a Transition Program for Cuba very soon. This will be presented to the Cuban people, as always as an open-ended proposal and not as a finished and partisan program. Cuba needs changes and this is what is important, what is undeniable. It is a reality that no propaganda or repression can bury. However, it is up to Cubans, and to Cubans alone, to decide for themselves the direction of these changes and the path of the Transition. This is their sovereign right as well as their patriotic duty at this hour.

It is not enough to wish for change, or to simply complain; we must work towards this among ourselves, the Cuban people.

There will not be a society where there is justice for all if there are no freedom and rights for all. We cannot construct a society for the good of all if it is not done by all. This means freeing our society of the exclusions, of the abuses of power, of the discriminations of every type, of the grave socioeconomic differences. These differences have been brought about by the impossibility of citizens to practice their rights, to develop their creative potential, to express themselves and to work freely. Meanwhile, a system has been put in place, an institutionalized corruption, of great privileges for those sectors of power, amidst the poverty and forced silence of the majority. These are facts of which the people are not only witnesses but also victims.

The greatest exclusions are those that leave citizens without a voice and without paths to democratic participation. Beyond the inherent limitations and denials of rights that the system of laws and the current structures contain, the most grave and dangerous thing

today is the repeated denial of any opening toward the future. This regression into the worst times of intolerance and restrictions affects all Cubans and falls like a punishment over the people, as if they had to pay for the inefficiency and moral ruin caused by the system and the policies that the people never chose. The people have never been given the possibility to decide in a democratic Referendum about their future and about the changes that it is known the majority wants.

Cubans cannot continue to be spectators of a reality in which they should be the protagonists because it is their own reality. Submission, regret, escapist accommodation or the rise to and enjoyment of positions of political or economic power, or both, amidst the drama that Cuba is living, are not healthy and decent forms of protagonism.

Many of our brothers that work peacefully in Cuba for the defense of human rights have been and are being slandered and repressed. Others, including women, have been assaulted in acts of repudiation by mobs commissioned by the authorities, with outrageous tactics against defenseless neighbors that are so abusive and low that they will be remembered as a shameful contribution of this system of power to the list of the most miserable injustices suffered by our people in all of its history.

We Cubans, referred to as dissidents or the opposition, only look for peaceful changes and the rights that the majority, though silent, also desires and yearns for. For defending these rights and these changes, the prisoners of the Cuban Spring and all the peaceful political prisoners have been unjustly condemned. They offer God this immense sacrifice, for the love of their people and at the cost of great suffering for their families. All Cubans owe gratitude and solidarity to these prisoners.

We are not judges, nor do we pretend to have the absolute truth; we only want to serve our people, our fellow man. While the injustices are grave, a lack of solidarity would be graver. We do not ask for support or recognition for the opposition that for years has worked and struggled under disadvantage, persecution, sacrifice, teasing, isolation and repression but rather we call on the people to wake up and do what is right for the sake of their own dignity.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk. 10: 25-36) should be inspirational for all, and in the light of this teaching of the Gospel, each person should ask oneself, if they are helping their beaten and assaulted fellow man or if their arguments and positions make them look the other way and continue on.

Only solidarity between Cubans themselves will be able to save Cuba. The support of the nations and individuals of good will in the world is important, but it cannot substitute, nor will it, the unique and fundamental role that Cubans themselves must play.

Our call is to follow the journey of liberation toward fraternity. It is a call to each Cuban, inside and outside of Cuba, from all experiences, political positions and situations. It does not matter if one is identified with the current system, is opposed to it or if one has their own vision which cannot be reduced to one of these camps. Everyone deserves

respect for their person, for their family and for all that they have done with love and honesty. This journey passes through the search for truth, through the encounter of internal freedom that liberates from hates, fears, submission and egotism and passes through to reconciliation with oneself and with one's neighbor, arriving at solidarity. We will discover ourselves walking together, building a society based on fraternity. This is the journey of true liberation.

In the middle of such darkness and fatalist predictions, a new age is announced for the world in which the key is not in technical development but in the recognition that the Creator made every human being free and irreplaceable but also a brother to his fellow man. We Cubans must rescue our vocation toward charity and freedom and carry out this journey of liberation that we propose today. It is not a system of theoretical concepts, it is a feasible path.

We do not accept fatalist statements. These doors that close the path to the future and that appear immovable are sustained by columns constructed on fear and the lack of faith and solidarity between Cubans. Yes, Cuba must change, and it will change, beginning with each Cuban.

These sealed doors, the columns and walls that enclose Cubans will fall, not over the people but rather clearing the path that we will all traverse toward a more just, free and humane society. This is our true hope.

May the Peace of God be with all Cubans and with all the peoples of the world in 2006 and forever.

CHRISTIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT
HAVANA, DECEMBER 30, 2005