

Corita: Women of Hope

I come to you with hugs from your Christian sisters in Cuba. I am Coralia Teresa Blanco Elissalde but people know me as Corita. My husband and I have one beautiful daughter. I pastor Shalom Community Church. It is very small and most of our members are women. I am also the theologian for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center in Havana.

I thank God that I have been able to study and train to serve people in need; in my case women. Women are the ones who suffer most from the economic instability in our country. I believe women can be emancipated and can enjoy decent jobs and salaries.

My biggest challenge is to develop and assist in projects that help women have quality of life and contribute to the economic stability of their homes. It gives me hope to know that we have sisters who are working and helping women to change their situation. The women of Cuba believe in “hope against hope” and have stubbornness that I believe will move us forward.

Please pray that I can get my Visa in time to come to America for the Latina Leadership Institute in June. It will be the first time the training has been taught in Spanish and that is good for me because I do not speak English! I ask that you also pray for my church, their projects, and their plans and for me as I have these plans materialize and give witness and hope.