

After months of planning in secret, tonight I will finally help my family escape from Cuba to America. My country, Cuba has become poor and living there is a struggle. Me and my wife, Daniella have been planning this for months and haven't told my son and daughter, Pablo and Serina anything.

It took us two months to gather enough refugees to go on the journey with us. Everybody gathered at the northern shores of Cuba. We all climbed on board with a few small belongings. We then left everything behind us.

The next morning everyone was tired and sore from sleeping on the floor of the boat. They were also sick to their stomachs from the rancid sea water in the boat. We were all starving because of what little food we have on this raft.

"Hey dad?" said Pablo

"Yeah son?" I replied.

"Where are we?" he asked.

"We're in the middle of the ocean, on a journey to America!" I said proudly.

"But I don't want to go to America!" Complained Serina. "We want to stay in Cuba!" They whined.

"Listen to your father kids." Daniella said in an annoyed tone.

"Alright mama." They replied.

"Storm approaching!" Yelled a refugee. We looked and it wasn't just any storm, it was a hurricane!

"Brace yourselves!" I yelled.

"Hold on!" screamed Daniella. The hurricane's powerful winds are rocking and pushing the boat around like paper in the wind!

"Hurry, grab some buckets and bail out the water as fast as you can! The boats filling up fast! Get rid of the water! I screamed while bailing out sea water as fast as possible. While we were bailing water during the night the storm stopped and we could breathe of stress and finish. Then we went to sleep.

In the morning after the storm relieved everyone saw a double rainbow lighting up the morning blue sky with beautifully bright colors! The refugees were filled with awe as the rainbows light up the sky. All of a sudden Pablo and Serina yell "Dolphins!" We looked around and we eventually saw an enormous pod of dolphins. We floated for hours before seeing anything else

other than blue, blue, and more blue. That's when we saw a ball of some sort. A beach ball or something. That's when we realized we were so very close to land. Night fell so we just decided to go to sleep.

As the sun rose and people awoke, they started to chant,

"Land ahoy, land ahoy, land ahoy!" Other refugees heard this chant woke up and looked. They saw land to and started to chant,

"Land ahoy, land ahoy, land ahoy!" We paddled as fast as we can toward shore by hand. We were all tired when we got there. We set up a camp along the beach. We found fruit growing and we took them. Me and a refugee went to search for someone to help us, but everyone seemed too busy to help help us. So we just went back to camp and slept through the night after a long day of searching.

In the morning we all tried searching together and we found a man in a blue uniform who was willing to help us. We waited for a long time for who knows what, then a van pulled up in front of us. We didn't know what this was about but we got in any way. We were in the van for about a 35 minute drive. Then we were dropped off at a big building.

There were other people there from different places. We settled down like the other people. We had people come to us to give us food and drinks. we were there for months at a time. People giving us food and drinks every day.

one day a woman came up to have a home waiting for you all. along with food drinks and clothing for you." The amazing thing is she said it in our own language. Maybe there is hope for us here in the us.

By Nate

