



"And now I am no more in the world,  
but these are in the world..." (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance  
of this week's lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®  
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### **A "SAVIOR" DIES**

The death of Fidel Castro last week marked the end of an era. In 1959, when his "26th of July Movement" overthrew Cuba's corrupt dictator, Fulgencio Batista, the world took notice. Many of the poor in Cuba viewed Castro as their savior. However, Castro became a tyrant and turned Cuba into a communist outpost just 90 miles from the United States. The dream of Cuba as a worker's paradise was never realized, and the Cuban economy stagnated. Now, the "savior" is dead. Some mourn his passing, but others are celebrating.

### **THE BIRTH OF *THE* SAVIOR IS PROMISED**

When the coming of the true Savior of the world was announced, few took notice—because the annunciation was private, to a poor young woman in a small village in Galilee. The angel who told Mary of her child's coming into the world spoke in glowing terms of the magnificent kingdom he would establish. The revolution he brought continues to spread around the world.

1. Why do some Cubans cheer Castro's death and others mourn it?
2. Why do human governments consistently deliver less than they promise?
3. What is it about Jesus' kingdom that makes it so different than worldly kingdoms?
4. Why has Christianity not delivered as much as it should in regard to changing the world?
5. Name some specific actions believers can take to facilitate the continuing spread of Christ's reign in this world. How does Mary's response suggest a part of the answer?

—Charles R. Boatman

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