

THY STRONG WORD

NOVEMBER 2018

Mission Update

We praise God for the ways He has been working through the mission this month. We had a short-term team come from Lake Forest, North Carolina in the middle of the month. They did some major work to the CARD house (disaster response house) to prepare it for future short-term teams to stay there and to organize everything in it. They also helped with roof repair in the community. Many thanks to them for their humble and sacrificial service.

Christel Neuendorf was here for 10 days again this month helping with the short-term team and also serving in Ponce where she and James will be moving in the next few months. She continues to identify houses for roof repair there and help with outreach activities.

Pastor Richard Schuller and his wife, Gema, moved to California on November 30. Pastor Anthony and Pastor Gustavo will be serving the people of Ponce during the interim between Pastor Schuller's departure and the arrival of (almost) Pastor James Neuendorf and Deaconess Christel Neuendorf. That means



Anthony helping with the rite of confirmation for Omar with Pastor Schuller in Ponce

they will be traveling to Ponce on Wednesdays to do a Bible study in the morning and "Salmos y Cafe" (Psalms and Coffee) in the afternoon. The Bible study is something that many of the members of the church attend. Salmos y Cafe is more of an outreach activity where they study the Psalms over coffee at the mall in Ponce with passerbys and a somewhat regular group of mostly non-members. On Sundays they will travel to Ponce

after the service in Mayaguez to lead the worship service there.

Last Sunday was Pastor Schuller's last Sunday in Ponce, and he was able to baptize two new members, both adults, and confirm another member. It was a very special service. Thank you for your prayers for the Schullers, the Neuendorfs, and the team on the ground in PR during this transitional period.



ME, CHRISTEL, RUTH, AND ERIN - ERIN MCKENZIE IS A MISSIONARY BASED IN THE DR WHO FACILITATES SHORT-TERM TEAMS IN THE REGION



EVERYONE WANTED TO HELP LUCAS TRY GREEN BEANS FOR THE FIRST TIME



PASTOR SCHULLER DOING THE RITE OF BAPTISM FOR JOSE AND ROSA

Personal update & Prayer Requests



After re-reading my newsletter from last month, I can definitely say that we are feeling more settled and a little less stressed than last month. The kids and I have now attended two birthday parties, both for boys Eliana's age who recently moved here from the States, so it was nice to connect to some other families from the lower 48. We also enjoyed another beach day, and we went to the Mayaguez city center for the annual lighting of the plaza for Christmas. It was a fun event with food, concerts, and carnival rides (picture below). William Torres and his family had us and the entire Mayaguez mission team over to their home for Thanksgiving. I've never eaten rice and beans with my Thanksgiving turkey before, but it was delicious!

I attended a Mayaguez Indios baseball game a couple weeks ago for the first time. I took Lucas, too, and the official mascot held him for good luck. Haha! Anthony went to his first game November 30. Baseball is the most popular sport on the island. As many of you baseball fans know, there are

several MLB players that hail from PR, including my personal favorite: Cardinal catcher Yadier Molina. Probably the most famous Puerto Rican baseball player is Roberto Clemente.

Within the last week, we hired a part-time babysitter for about 6-8 hours per week. She's a sweet university student here in Mayaguez. We are hopeful that this will allow us to "catch up" a little quicker following our move, and it will also give the kids a chance to be exposed to more Spanish. We also acquired a new vehicle in the last week from the Schullers. Having a second vehicle will also help facilitate the catching up. Unlike Peru, there are not viable public transportation options here and things are spread out, so it is a necessity to have two cars if the kids and I ever want to leave the house while Anthony is working. We praise God for providing for us!

DONATION INFORMATION

Read our prayer card and give online at <https://www.lcms.org/diliberto>
A check can be made to the LCMS with "DiLiberto" in the memo line and sent to: LCMS, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166

Mission Central

Adopt Us as your missionaries by visiting <https://missioncentral.us/diliberto/> A check can be made out to Mission Central with "A10898-69173" in the memo and sent to: Mission Central, 40718 HWY E16, Mapleton, IA 51034

1. Praise God for our babysitter, Laura, and for providing a second vehicle.

2. Thank God for the Schuller's service in PR and pray for their transition.

3. Please pray that we find a good preschool for Eliana.

4. Pray for Jose and Rosa who were recently baptized in Ponce and for Omar who was confirmed.

5. Praise God for his never-ending mercy and the hope of heaven!

PUERTO RICO FAST FACTS

We are learning about how Christmas is celebrated in Puerto Rico. Two notable traditions here include las parrandas and their celebration of Three Kings Day on January 6. A parranda is a little band of people that surprises friends by going to their homes and playing loud music. It's similar to Christmas caroling, but much livelier. We bought the girls a parranda instrument kit for Christmas. While Santa has become somewhat popular here, traditionally, Puerto Rican children receive their gifts from the Three Kings on January 6. The kids cut grass and put it in a shoebox under their bed on the 5th. The camels eat the grass and the Kings leave them gifts.



CONTACT US - NEW ADDRESS!

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ANTHONY'S BLOG
NONORTHORSOUTH.COM

Hymn of the Month: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing, LSB 686 verse 1

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace; Streams of mercy, never ceasing Call for songs of loudest praise. While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.