

THY STRONG WORD

SEPTEMBER 2019

Mission Update

We were blessed with the help of a short-term team from Hope Lutheran Church in Wake Forest, North Carolina in mid-September. (Pictured on page 2.) They built a new pulpit for our sanctuary, worked on projects around the CARD house, and a couple of them even came to our new house to help out one morning. Because of the weather conditions in Puerto Rico, black mold easily grows on sidewalks and driveways, so one of the projects at both the CARD house and our house was to use a pressure washer to get rid of it. We are so thankful for their service! We celebrated with the team on their last night here with a traditional Puerto Rican Christmas feast made by Cindy and William. It was delicious! (Sidenote: Christmas decorations and hoopla start emerging in Puerto Rico after Labor Day.)

Two people from Cristo Para Todas Las Naciones (CPTLN) headquarters in St. Louis (the Spanish version of Lutheran Hour Ministries) visited the mission in September as well. In fact, their visit coincided with the short-term team. Anthony took one of them



to see the work being done in Ponce, and he spent some time meeting with Yaritza (our local director) and the two visitors.

The last week of September, Anthony was privileged to lead Bible study and worship in Ponce while Pastor James Neuendorf took a short vacation.

Anthony has also spent a significant amount of time the last few weeks of September in meetings about the

potential purchase of a building in Ponce that would serve both as a place of worship and a center for mercy work (disaster response, classes, etc.). This is a different building than we were originally hoping to purchase at the beginning of the year, and it has been a complicated and difficult process to get where we are. Please pray that we might soon be able to purchase a building and move forward in getting it ready for service.



YARITZA WAS CONFIRMED IN AUGUST AND I FORGOT TO MENTION IT IN OUR LAST NEWSLETTER



OUR NEW HOUSE!



ANTHONY WITH CHAD LAKIES FROM LHM IN PONCE.

Personal update & Prayer Requests



We kicked off September celebrating my 37th birthday with a Baskin Robbins ice cream cake. Thank you to all those who sent birthday greetings.

With the help of our missionary team, we moved into our house on September 3. We absolutely love it! We now realize that it takes longer to get the power back when it goes out here (6 hours the last time it went out), but overall, we love the space, the view, and our fruit trees (avocado, coconut, and lemon). We also have a guest room now, so feel free to visit us! Also note our new address below.

We traveled to California for Carissa's Memorial service from September 12-17. One leg of the trip was on an 8-seater plane from Mayaguez to San Juan. The girls had never done that before, and they loved it! (Family selfie on page 1.) It was such a blessing to see so many family and friends who came to support us at the funeral, but of course, it was also a difficult time. We are grateful we were able to go. Thank you for your continued prayers for our family.

Hurricane Dorian and Tropical Storm Karen missed us, although Eliana had a day off of school for each threat just in case we were hit. We also felt two earthquakes during the month of September. Both quakes had their epicenters out in the ocean. I was the only one in our family to feel it on September 5, but several people felt the 6.0 quake on September 23 and its aftershocks. Thankfully there was no damage, and everyone was fine. Growing up in the midwest, we had fire drills and snow days at school. Eliana will remember tropical storm/hurricane days and earthquake drills.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have celebrated our one-year anniversary of moving to Puerto Rico! October 2 is the day. Thank you so much for keeping up with our family, praying for us and the mission, and supporting us throughout the year.

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. Thank God for safe travel to California and back and time with family.

2. Pray for our family as we grieve the loss of Carissa.

3. Pray for the upcoming FORO this week and for the purchase of the building in Ponce.

4. Praise God for the short-term team who came to help the mission and its missionaries!

5. Praise Jesus for being our Good Shepherd.

PUERTO RICO FAST FACTS

Earthquakes in Puerto Rico

Since we felt a couple of tremors last month, I decided to look into the history of earthquakes in Puerto Rico. While there are several recorded near Puerto Rico each year, most are 3.0 or less on the Richter Scale with their epicenters out in the ocean around the island. There have been 4 devastating earthquakes in Puerto Rico since being colonized by the Spanish, all of which were between 7.5 and 8.0 on the Richter Scale. They happened in 1670, 1787, 1867, and 1918. Two of these four earthquakes originated on the west coast near where we live, and two of them also caused tsunamis. (<https://www.discoveringpuertorico.com/puerto-rico-earthquakes/>)



CONTACT US - NEW ADDRESS!

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ANTHONY'S BLOG
NONORTHORSOUTH.COM

Hymn: I am Jesus Little Lamb

LSB 740, vs. 3

Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd's lamb? And when my short life is ended, By His angel host attended, He shall fold me to His breast, There within His arms to rest.