

JAN-APRIL, 2020

STEPHANIE IN PUERTO RICO

SPRING 2020



Special Announcement

There will be a special announcement that will be coming in the next week

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Those whose loved ones have died during this time
- For all people who feel alone and isolated at this time

PUERTO RICO



In mid March Pastor James, Deaconess Christel and myself were preparing for our CARD (Casa de Amparo Repuesta a Desastre) house to be opened. We would be starting in our temporary location while our permanent location's damage from the earthquake will be repaired. We were set to open March 18. As we all know that did not happen and we all had to assess how we would continue to reach those in our community with the Gospel while not being able to visit with them face to face. The Puerto Rico team met and came up with a tentative plan that could be implemented immediately and then we could evaluate and review what would need to be changed or added. As of now as the Lutheran Church in Puerto Rico we are providing two Bible studies via our Facebook pages, daily devotional readings, our mobile children's outreach "Encerrados con Jesús", and our two English conversation classes which involves volunteers from the states helping us with one on one conversations with those in our communities. Some of what I have been doing for this is posting to our page, handling the Ponce side of the English conversations, drawing/creating coloring pages, and reading a bible story (recording) for our Sunday school children. I am also going to be working with Deaconess Christel in writing devotions on the Psalms as they appear in the lectionary. We will post a written devotion whose target audience are women and I will create a wallpaper for a cellphone and a coloring page to go with the devotion. This will be a weekly endeavor and Christel and I will write the devotions bimonthly.

This is not at all how I imagined my internship to go. But I am constantly reminded that through it all God is with us. He will never leave nor forsake us. God's Blessings!

These last few months on the mission field have been a whirlwind. I arrived in Puerto Rico on January 15, 2020. A little over a week after 2 earthquakes of 6.0 or higher hit the southern end of the island, close to where I live. Many of the first weeks here was not doing I originally thought I would be doing. I became part of the team who cared for those on the southern part of the island after the earthquakes. We went on weekly visits to the refugee camps around the area and visited with the people who were there. I made a connection with one of the ladies who was staying at the main camp. My first full day I was in Puerto Rico we were at the center and brought coffee and some devotions as well as we were planning on having a short prayer service with a few songs. The pastors were talking with those who sought them out and I was standing by the table where we were serving the coffee. The woman came up to me and asked if I was with the church and asked if we had a Bible that we could give her. I was unsure at the time where they were so I told her that as soon as I found out where they were I would find her one and bring it to her. Fast forward I was able to acquire a Bible and I set off to look for her. After about 5 mins of searching I finally found her and the look of pure joy on her face as I gave her the Bible is something that I will never forget. We had a conversation and talked. I am still learning Spanish and she could tell so she taught me some Puerto Rican sayings. I may have made her laugh a couple of times with how I pronounced the words. This communication continued every time that we went back to the center. On one of the occasions I was able to sit with her and read Psalm 91 and pray with her. We also said the Lord's Prayer together and I learned more about her family. Before March 15 we were still making visits to both her and her son. Even though I haven't been able to see her since March I cannot wait for it to be safe enough that I can continue to go on visits.

