

THY STRONG WORD

JULY 2020

Mission Update

Every Tuesday in the month of July, the mission held an online VBS. They pre-recorded a video in the jungle to serve as the theme for the Bible stories they taught. Carlos the puppet (played by William) was a highlight for the kids as they learned about how God created the world, Noah's ark, and Jesus calling the disciples. The team mailed out the crafts to go with the stories in advance, and our kids had fun doing those as well. We plan to continue this ministry once a month as there are many enthusiastic participants who want to learn more!

The Mark Bible study with the pastors is still online on Facebook every Tuesday and Thursday evening. Pastor Anthony and Pastor James continue leading a zoom Bible study in English on Wednesday nights with people who attend the English classes offered by the mission. And Raul and Lynmaris, continue studying the catechism with Pastor Gustavo and Pastor Anthony.

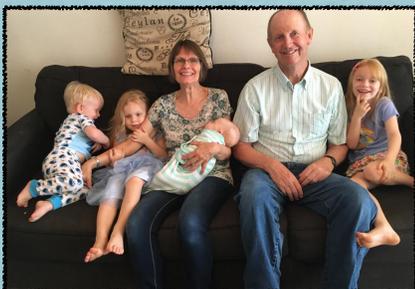
On July 13, Ashley Lehr, a new GEO missionary to Puerto Rico finally arrived to the field! She had been



stuck in the Dominican Republic because of COVID for about 3 months longer than planned. She will help with English classes and other outreach activities.

On Thursday, July 30, Tropical Storm Isaias (Spanish for Isaiah) passed over Puerto Rico. Mayaguez was hit the hardest. While it was a relatively small storm compared to other tropical storms and hurricanes, it still did significant damage. There was flash flooding, downed trees, damaged houses, etc.

On Friday the team helped Manual and Sara, members of the congregation, with a landslide that created a problem at their home. (My dad was here, so he tagged along and helped, too!) Many people were without power for days, including us. Our power went out at 4:45 p.m. the day before the storm (Wednesday), and it came back on at 11 p.m. on Monday night. That was a new record for longest power outage for us. I can't imagine what it would have been like during and after Hurricane Maria!



NANA AND PAPA WITH THE GRANDKIDS



DAD HELPING AT MANUAL AND SARA'S HOUSE



KIDS WATCHING VBS

Personal update & Prayer Requests



We had the privilege of hosting Ashley Lehr for the first week she was here in Puerto Rico. We enjoyed getting to know her a little bit during that time. After the first week, she stayed with the Maita's for 2.5 weeks while she found and rented an apartment.

She left our house because my parents (Nana and Papa) came to visit and needed the guest room. We were so excited to FINALLY introduce them to Joseph and show them our house. My dad helped us so much with cleaning and doing small repairs around the house. Mom played with the kids and rocked the baby non-stop for 14 days. I'm sure they slept well when they went home. We enjoyed our evenings together after the kids were in bed talking and watching different shows. We watched Hamilton together for the first time and loved it! They also got to experience their first tropical storm and being out of power for days. The power outage (6 days) and water outage (2 days) were much more bearable with the help of Nana and Papa and with the ice cream runs to Baskin Robins (after it was no longer flooded). The picture below is the bottom of the road we live off of. We are glad our house is on higher ground.

Cindy Pine, a fellow missionary serving in the Dominican Republic, was finally able to return to the DR on July 14 after being stuck in Puerto

Rico since mid-March. Even though she was stuck, she enjoyed her time here and made the most of it. We appreciated Friday night suppers with her and the ways she helped us right before and after Joseph's birth.

We had our last visit with Dr. Ramon Perez on July 28 (Pictured on the left.). We are so grateful to God for placing him in our lives and for the care he provided for Joseph, me, and even Eliana for another UTI. With as fast as Joseph entered the world, he would have probably been born at home or in the car no matter what, so we are thankful that a home birth was the plan anyway.

As you may have heard through an email sent earlier this week, Anthony has been extended a Call to serve as Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Henderson, NV. This was the church where he served his vicarage from 2016-2017. Thank you for your prayers as we deliberate. We will send another email once we make a decision. Thank you so much for all the encouraging emails we've received and for all the prayers already being lifted up.

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 a great turnout to virtual VBS and continued interest.

2. Pray for safety during any upcoming tropical storms or hurricanes.

3. Pray for us as we contemplate a Call to serve at Grace Lutheran Church in Henderson, NV.

4. Praise God for my parents' visit and the time we had together.

5. Praise God for His love for us in Christ, which is wide and long and high and deep. (Eph 3:17-18)

PUERTO RICO FAST FACTS

Active Tropical Storm/Hurricane Season

For months now, we have been hearing that this hurricane season will be one of the most active in decades. So far, it has already broken records with 9 named storms by the beginning of August. On average there are only 2 by that time. Oceanic and atmospheric conditions are perfect for hurricane formation, which is why they are predicting a total of 19-25 named storms through the end of November as opposed to the average 12 named storms in a season. (<https://www.wvlp.com/weather/news/noaa-hurricane-season-forecast-this-year-one-of-most-active-in-decades/>)



CONTACT US - NEW ADDRESS!

Anthony & Jamie DiLiberto
1494 Camino Zoologico
Mayaguez, PR 00682
jendorfl7@gmail.com

[ANTHONY'S BLOG
NONORTHORSOUTH.COM](https://www.nonorthorsouth.com)

Hymn: How Wide the Love of Christ

LSB 535, vs. 1 and 5

How wide the love of Christ! It knows not class or race But holds our one humanity within its broad embrace.

All praise to You, O Christ, for love whose depth and height, whose length and breadth fill time and space with endless life and light!