

THY STRONG WORD

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2020

Mission Update

On August 2, Anthony received a Call to serve as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Henderson, Nevada. He served as vicar at this church from 2016-2017. After much prayer, some tears, and many conversations, we accepted the Call on August 16 and began the process of transitioning off the mission field in Puerto Rico. We have attached our end of service letter to this email for you to read. Many of you may have received it in the mail in the last week or two. We can't thank you all enough for following along on our missionary journey with us and supporting us with prayers, encouragement, and financial gifts. We trust God's promise that our labor in the Lord is not in vain (1 Cor. 15:58), and we praise God for whatever work was done through us. We also continue to pray for our dear brothers and sisters in the Puerto Rican mission. There are many wonderful missionaries in Latin America and around the world who need more support, so if you are interested in transferring your support to them, please read our attached letter for more information.



The last 6 weeks were filled with many transitions and good-byes in Puerto Rico. Anthony and James finished the English Bible study they were doing.

We visited Fuente de Vida in Ponce to say goodbye to the congregation there. Because of COVID and the earthquakes, it was the first time our whole family had been to the Ponce church since December. I'm glad we were able to say goodbye to them in person.

Our last Sunday at Principe de Paz in Mayaguez was September 27. It was an emotional and very special Sunday filled with a sending rite for our family in addition to the Baptisms and confirmations of Raul and Lymarie. They have been worshipping with us ever since we opened the door again the end of May. We praise God for their saving faith and ask that He continues to keep them in His care.



BAPTISM OF RAUL AND LYMARIE



ANTHONY WITH MEMBERS IN PONCE



THE LADIES OF THE PUERTO RICO MISSION. THEY GAVE ME AN APRON FOR A GOODBYE GIFT.

Personal update & Prayer Requests



In August we celebrated one year of life for Mikhaela, Pastor Gustavo and Ruth's little girl with the whole team. In September we enjoyed a despedida (goodbye party) with the team at a delicious BBQ restaurant one Saturday evening. Earlier in the day we had a huge garage sale, which was relatively successful despite COVID.

Eliana was able to have a play date with her best friend, Victoria, before we left. It was a sad goodbye, but we are virtually connected! In fact, Eliana is continuing her virtual school in Puerto Rico through the month of October as we get settled.

We shipped our minivan that we bought in Puerto Rico to Nevada (it just arrived here today!), and we packed up several duffle bags and suitcases of things to take with us. The rest of it we sold or gave to the Salvation Army. My mom came to help us during our last ten days in Puerto Rico. I don't know how we could have done it without her!

We flew from San Juan to Las Vegas on Saturday, October 3. We were warmly received by Anthony's mom and congregation members who lugged our many bags to our temporary residence. We are so blessed to be able to stay in a house owned by a member of the congregation while we settle in and search for a home to buy.

We are also grateful that no other tropical storms or hurricanes hit Puerto Rico after Isaias and Laura, despite this being the most active storm season on record. We pray for God's continued protection for Puerto Rico and the other areas that are threatened by tropical storms.

It is hard to believe this is our last newsletter. I've been writing them every month (with a few exceptions) for just over ten years. What wonderful documentation we have of God's faithfulness to us over the last decade. From newsletters as a single lady in Peru to our combined married newsletter in Peru to Seminary, Puerto Rico, and four kids later, God has provided richly and daily for us as He promises.

We are amazed and blessed by all the kind, generous, Spirit-filled people we have met along the way. We have learned from your Christian examples, been humbled by your generosity, and been encouraged by your prayers and words to us. We praise God for bringing each of you into our lives in one way or another, and we look forward to the day when we will all be rejoicing together in heaven.

We sincerely thank you for all you've done for our family, the mission work in Peru and Puerto Rico, and God's Kingdom. May He continue to use each of us to bring the Gospel to the Nations.

DONATION INFORMATION

Please consider transferring your support to other wonderful missionaries in the Latin American region or around the world. Visit www.lcms.org/missionarysupport to find a missionary.

1. Thank God for protection from the many tropical storms this year.

2. Pray for the Puerto Rican mission and missionaries as they continue to grow and reach out to their neighbors.

3. Pray for us as we adjust to life in Henderson, Nevada.

4. Praise God for safe travel from Puerto Rico to Henderson and for all the help we've received before, during, and after the move.

5. Praise God for being with us in all circumstances and providing for our needs.

PUERTO RICO FAST FACTS

Elections

Had we stayed in Puerto Rico, we would not have been able to vote in the upcoming general election. The nearly 3.2 million American citizens who live in Puerto Rico (Puerto Ricans are American Citizens) may not vote in the general election because it has no electoral votes. They are, however, able to vote for each party's nominee in the primaries. This is also true for residents of the other four U.S. territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands). <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2019/05/07/why-puerto-rico-residents-cant-vote-even-though-they-are-us-citizens/1119543001/>



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ANTHONY'S BLOG
NONORTHORSOUTH.COM

Hymn: How Firm a Foundation

Hymns to the Living God #241 vs 2

In every condition, in sickness, in health, in poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth, at home and abroad, on the land, on the sea, as days may demand, shall thy strength ever be.