

## Sharing Jesus during Advent and Christmas

### Greetings in Christ!

December was full of opportunities to share about Jesus. On December 8th, Ruth led a craft for thirty homeschooled children, who gather at our church in Ponce for weekly English classes. We made an angel decoration to celebrate their last day. We talked about “Go Tell It On The Mountain”, which they learned last year, and about how we can share the good news of our Savior, just like the angels.



Isaiah, Gustavo and Mikhaela work together on a Christmas meal: Venezuelan hallacas

On December 16th we had an English workshop for adults. We studied and learned the Christmas carols. One of the carols was “Joy to the World, the Lord is come, Let Earth receive her King, Let every heart prepare Him room, and Heaven and nature sing”. Many of students were amazed at the beauty of the imagery and meaning of the words.



We also practiced a Christmas drama and shared it with another group at the church. As we ended, a new student named Gloria asked the Pastor about the church and service times.



One of three homeschooling classes meeting at the church in Ponce. Ruth and the other teachers are in the back.

On December 19th we met with the pre-school children of the government’s Headstart program who have classes in the first floor of our church building in Mayaguez. We joined the families at their Christmas lunch and passed out gifts and books about Jesus’ birth. Gustavo played the guitar and I played the trumpet, and then sang the Spanish translation of “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”. We invited everyone to a new English class for kids and have received calls from many interested parents. These classes will begin January 13th. Please pray for this new opportunity to share about Jesus and connect with new families.

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Mikha helped prepare and deliver the gifts to the children.





## Prayer Requests, Praises and Thanks

Thanksgiving for our family in Christ who help make the holidays feel more like home!

Thanksgiving for Guillermo, Emmanuel and Miriam who are studying the catechism to be confirmed members.

Prayers for many of our members who are sick or getting sick. Thanksgiving that Mikhaela is getting better.

Prayers for future ministry opportunities: new kids' English class, and classes for adults beginning again.

Thanksgiving for all the brothers and sisters in Christ who pray for us and support us.

A picture is worth a thousand words...



We had a service marathon from Dec 24th, the Fourth Sunday of Advent 10am, Christmas Eve Service 5pm, Christmas Day Service December 25th 10am! This meant writing 3 different sermons for Pastor Gustavo!



Not your typical Christmas diner at church—this is a fried fish.



Jose helps Isaiah with his food.



Isaiah and Mikhaela help clean up in the fellowship hall.



Sonia and Sandra came to help with a Christmas tradition at our home, then everyone came for the meal!

Thank you for your prayers and support.

*Pastor Gustavo, Ruth, Mikhaela and Isaiah Maita*

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at [lcms.org/service](http://lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

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