



# Puerto Rico Report

“The Lord is king, let the earth have joy; let all the islands be glad.” Psalm 97:1

## Doors of Opportunity

As of mid-March we had studies with Guillermo, Leticia, Wilkins and Prince (all non-Christians), and a regular study with Luis who recently became a Christian. Since then, the Lord has opened many doors for us. As I mentioned in the last report, Dana Burk and Anna have begun studying with Teresita Vera. Dana also has had an opportunity to start studying a young lady who does her nails. Anna and I have had a chance to casually study with a couple from our apartment complex who are of the Orthodox faith—Spyridon and Lisa Morrow. Tol and I have had opportunities to preach in several different places, such as St. Croix, on top of the preaching we regularly do at the Caparra churches. Dana has organized a ladies retreat here and about 25 ladies from Puerto Rico, other islands, and the States are planning to attend. And to top it all off, we have a vacation Bible school set up for the month of June. It is a busy time, and we could not be more excited to have these chances to teach God’s word.

A note about our study with Spyridon and Lisa. He is an American from Tennessee, and she is Puerto Rican. Both speak English, which is exciting since English-speaking contacts are so rare here. The English speaking group feels stifled at times because there aren’t that many contacts here that will potentially grow that group, so obviously we are excited about this opportunity.

As I mentioned, they are of the Orthodox faith, and having never studied with anyone with that background, it has been interesting learning more about what they believe. I had been doing some research, planning to ask them for a study shortly, but recently when we had them



The English-speaking church at Caparra

over to the apartment, some things were said that provided me a great opportunity to challenge their insistence on viewing what they call ‘holy tradition’ nearly as highly as they view Scripture (Holy Tradition consists mostly of the early writings of the ‘church fathers’ and ancient ‘Christian’ texts) . This began a discussion where we felt out what the other believed regarding modern-day spiritual gifts, the authority of the early church councils, apostolic succession, and how we know the 27 books of the New Testament are the inspired writings God approved. It was quite an interesting

conversation, and we all agreed that we would like to pick more specific topics and discuss them again in the future.

As always, your prayers for our work are greatly needed and appreciated. As Paul said, “Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving...so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ...[and] that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.” (Col. 4:2-4) God has opened the door. It is up to us to “make it clear,” and we ask your prayers that we may do it.



April 28, 2010

This month I am going to interrupt introducing you to the members at Caparra, and introduce you to the preacher who has just begun working in Moca, a city on the Northwestern side of the island. I am doing this not only because he is a good man, but also because is in urgent need of support.

Before getting to his needs, let me say a few things about him. He is 55 years old, and has preached in Mexico for many years. He has started 7-8 churches in the area where he lived, and the church that he left before coming here has between 70 and 100 members. He trained several young men to preach there, so the group did not even have to look for outside help with teaching when he left, thanks to his training of these men. He is a diligent worker, going out several days a week to hand out material as people head to work in the mornings. He spends a good



**Left to Right: Nicolas Hernandez; Tol Burk; and Alicia Hernandez**

deal of time translating English books and study materials into Spanish, which will be used by Spanish-speaking brethren all over the world. He is a hard worker, and well deserving of support.

His problem came just after he arrived here last month. A church that had agreed to support him \$3500 per month (he needs \$4000/mo.) told him they would not be able to help him at all. This is completely due to the group's financial situation, and in no way reflective of Nicolas. He is here now, and preaching, but only bringing in \$600 per month. A few individuals and churches have sent him emergency help, but he will need much more to get him through the first

few months he is here until he can find other support. If you know of a church or individual who can help him with support, regularly or one time, please contact me and I'll provide you with more information.

## Support Information

North Terrace, TN - \$433/mo.; Midway, AL - \$300/mo.; Individuals, AL - \$200/mo.; Individual, TN - \$150/mo.; Perry Hill Rd., AL - \$700/mo.; Oak Ridge, TN - \$750/mo.; Corinth, MS - \$5000/one yr.; Brentwood, TN - \$2500/one yr.; North Hixson, TN - \$400/mo.; White Park, LA - \$4000/one yr.; McDonough, GA - \$250/mo.; Caparra Terrace (Sp.) - \$150/mo.; Caparra Terrace (Eng.) - \$200/mo.; Crockett, TX - \$250/mo.; Pulaski, TN - \$100/mo.; Athens, TN - \$300/mo.; Individuals, AL - \$1000/yr.; Individuals, TX - \$100/mo.

After having lived here several months, we are now able to accurately assess our financial needs. We will be needing \$6,000 monthly to live and save a sufficient amount. We currently have \$5,325 of that amount, but will likely be losing between \$600 and \$1000 dollars of that by year's end. Any help that any of you can provide in helping us find that support would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your interest.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Joel and Anna Holt  
 Villas del Parque  
 14 Villas del Parque, Apt. 14D  
 San Juan, PR 00909  
 holtzter@gmail.com  
 787-998-0045