



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

5/25/09

Dear Brethren,

In October, 2009, the Lord blessed my wife and I with the ability to move to Puerto Rico so that I could begin preaching for the churches that meet at Caparra Terrace in San Juan. It had been our goal for some time to move to a Spanish-speaking country, refine our abilities with the language, and help the church grow in a place where it is struggling at the present time. Our opportunity came when brother Tol Burk suggested we consider moving to Puerto Rico (a U.S. territory) where he had begun to preach. At the time, he was in San Juan preaching for both an English-speaking church and a Spanish-speaking congregation, and in addition to that, was continuing his life's work of helping struggling churches on several Caribbean Islands as well as in other Hispanic countries. His travels required him to be gone between 15 and 20 weeks out of the year, leaving the small churches in San Juan with no one to teach or preach while he was gone. It also placed any evangelistic efforts he was making on hold while he was away. He felt that we could move here, begin working predominantly in English, thus having an immediate impact on the church here, and as our Spanish improved, we would have more and more influence on Spanish-speaking Christians and non-Christians on the island. That is what we have begun to do, and we are already seeing the opportunities the Lord is providing us.

Since we arrived in October, my Spanish – which was mostly book knowledge and non-conversational – has improved to the point that I am preaching and teaching class in Spanish regularly while brother Burk has been away. I have also been able to continue the personal Bible studies that he was having with two individuals, and those studies have gone well. We are hoping that before too long the couple will be baptized into Christ. I have also been preaching and teaching each Lord's Day and Wednesday for the English-speaking group, as well as having studies with some of the members in their homes. My wife and I have made contact with a couple of families that speak English well, and we plan to ask them for studies in the near future. There are around 2 million people in the San Juan metro area, and so the opportunities are great here if we simply put in the work and allow the Lord to provide the increase.

When we moved here in October, we arrived having enough to survive on but still needing about \$800 more per month to begin saving and to be able to breathe a bit easier each month. In addition to this need, due to the economic hardship in the U.S. over the past couple of years several of the churches that support us currently have only been able

to commit for one year, and though we do not know how much support we will lose by the end of this year, we estimate that it will be between \$700 and \$1000 per month. Due to this, any financial help the church there could offer would be of great assistance, and I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Thank you for the taking the time to consider this request, and I will be glad to provide with any further information you may need regarding our needs and work. Please pray for us and the churches on the island as we labor for the Lord.

In His service,

Joel Holt

REFERENCES:

- *Donnie Newton*: 920 County Road 84, Rogersville, AL; *Phone*: (256) 247-5109
- *Tol Burk*: P.O. Box 50182, Toja Baja, Puerto Rico 00950; *Phone*: (787) 998-2089; *Email*: tolburk@gmail.com
- *Gardner Hall*: P.O. Box 123, Port Murray, NJ 07865; *Phone*: (908) 850-5389; *Email*: Gardner@creced.com
- *Huey Hartsell*: 1409 11th Street, Cullman, AL 35055; *Phone*: (256) 297-2362
- *Bryan Moody*: 197 Greenfield Lane, Alabaster, AL 35007; *Phone*: (205) 664-7379; *Email*: moody.bt@gmail.com
- *Edward Rangel*: P.O. Box 2729, Moca, Puerto Rico 00676; *Phone*: (787) 235-8044; *Email*: rangellalo@gmail.com