



Puerto Rico Report

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

Out with the Old, In with the New

Happy New Year everyone! Our hopes from Puerto Rico are that all of you had a very happy holiday season and that your new year has begun well. Our year has certainly begun well as far as the work is concerned here.

One of the many reasons we felt the need to move here was to help the work continue during times when Tol Burk was gone from the island, and that has been the case this month. He and Dana have been gone for three weeks to the States to visit churches that support him as well as to spend the holidays with all of their family for the first time in several years. This has meant that for three Sundays I have taught class and preached in both English and Spanish. It has been challenging to be sure, but very rewarding for me. It has given me the opportunity to preach a lesson or two that will hopefully gently nudge a man named Luis to obey the gospel. He has studied with Tol for several weeks and regularly attends with us. He knows what he needs to do to obey, but needs encouragement in that direction. It has also helped me improve my Spanish, and several have commented that it is improving due to the extra work I am doing in preparing the lessons. That is certainly encouraging to hear!

I wrote last time about an opportunity we have had with a young couple here (Guillermo and Leticia). Their

initial interest has only grown since we have been studying. With Tol being off the island, I have continued the personal studies with them in Spanish, and those have gone extremely well. We have studied at length about authority, and their attitude has been that if it says it in the Bible, it must be obeyed—obviously exactly what we’re looking for! We will introduce the plan of salvation soon, and our prayers are that they see that as clearly as they have seen the other principles we have set before them. They certainly have displayed open hearts to the gospel to this point. Anna and I have become good friends with them, and have had them in our home each week for the past 2-3 weeks. Please be praying for them.



Me Teaching Bible Class at Caparra Terrace

The holidays can be difficult when it comes to personal studies due to people’s commitments to family events, church events, and shopping. However, as we get into January we look forward to inviting several people in our apartment complex to our place for meals and dessert to get to know them better. A couple of families speak excellent English, and our hope is to work up to studies with them in the near future. 2010 looks bright with opportunities, and we are looking forward to the work ahead.

Thanks, as always, for your prayers and support for us. We are grateful to God for you all.

January 6, 2009

Starting this month I would like to introduce all of you to several of the members of the church here at Caparra Terrace, as well as some of those who regularly attend with us. We will begin with two of those that attend with the Spanish-speaking group: Carmen Cruz and her grandson, Luis Gonzalez.

Hermana (sister) Carmen has been a Christian for many years, and is a constant source of encouragement to us. She relies on others to bring her to services, but is there every time the doors are open. She is devoted to bringing her family and friends who are outside of Christ to salvation, and this has led her to encourage her grandson Luis to being attending and studying with the church at Caparra.



Front Row: Carmen Cruz and Luis Gonzalez

Tol began studying with Luis several weeks ago, and he is aware of his need to obey the gospel, but has not yet obeyed. He seems to have an open heart to God's word, however, and pays very close attention to every class, sermon and study. Though his job requires him to be away some services, he is there at every other opportunity.

Holiday plans and his increased work schedule have hindered him studying with Tol for the past few weeks, those studies will begin again shortly, Lord willing.

We ask all of you to give God thanks for Hermana Carmen and Luis. Pray that she

will continue to be a positive influence among those that she knows, and that Luis will obey the gospel soon.

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.) - \$50/mo.; Caparra Terrace (Eng.) - \$200/mo.; Crockett, TX - \$250/mo.; Pulaski, TN - \$100/mo.; Athens, TN - \$300/mo.; Individuals, AL - \$1000/yr.

After having lived here two 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 \$5,125 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

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