

MARCH 2009 REPORT

March 10, 2009

Dear brethren,

My prayer is that you are all well and enjoying the richest blessings of our Heavenly Father, as we are. February has been a good month for us here—several firsts and the promise of more to come.

Attendance in both the churches at Caparra has been up—we've had 2 or 3 visitors from off island every Sunday at the English church and a renewed attendance from some of our visitors at the Spanish church. I met with Araceli, one of those visitors toward the end of the month and she's agreed to study on Tuesdays around 6 PM. She works at a beauty parlor and Tues. is her only day off, so I'm not able to go to Ponce right now, as they meet on Tues. Araceli told me she knows she needs to be baptized, but doesn't feel she knows enough yet. Her son Jeffrey is a real joy—he's just 6 so doesn't read yet, but loves to sing all the hymns. Since our repertoire is limited, he knows parts of most of them—his favorite is Solo de Jesus la Sangre (Nothing but the Blood of Jesus). He has always been the most faithful in attendance among the children and I know his interest has encouraged Araceli to be more serious.

We also had a restoration in English—Georgina Santiago, a lady in her 70's who was baptized at Caparra close to 20 years ago. Her son came home from college a Christian and taught her and his brother & sister, who were all baptized. Georgina's husband was so opposed to the church that he finally divorced her, leaving her with 3 children, 1 in college, another not far behind, plus one several years younger. Although she persevered for a time, she eventually fell away, but has now been restored. Please pray for her—she doesn't have a car (or a telephone) and lives in a gated apartment complex, so it's hard for us to communicate with her, since it all depends on her.

A new church began meeting in Juncos. A couple from the church in Dorado moved to Juncos and since Joe Carrasquillo, who preaches in Dorado actually lives on one side of Gurabo and Juncos is on the other side (Gurabo is to the right of Caguas on this map), the 6 of them meet on Sunday afternoon in Juncos. Joe still preaches in Dorado on Sunday morning as usual.

Brethren, I'm not sure what the outcome of this effort in Juncos will be. The Colon's are living with their daughter, who is a Jehovah's Witness, and the church is meeting in the carport of the daughter's house. Since the Colon's are in the States for 3 weeks, the church will not meet until they get back. The church met for 3 weeks, but will not meet for 3 weeks. I understand, but will visitors?

I'm also kind of at a crossroads with the liberal church in Ponce. They are more alive than they've been in 4-5 years, but much of that is social—they're now eating in the building almost every Sunday, for example. I've been praying, and ask you to pray with me, as to how to proceed. My plan is to go one Tuesday, tell them I believe it is wrong for them to eat in the church building, ask if they would be willing to listen to "why", and end by telling them I will not eat with them, but will work with them if they're willing. I don't know what their answer will be.

We are frequently asked if Puerto Rico is safe and the answer is, "Yes" at least more or less. While we were gone Mon. afternoon a young man broke into our house and opened all the drawers in both bedrooms, took 6 or 7 pairs of earrings, my non-functional watch, and Dana's camera. He also took my laptop, but when my neighbor chased him in the car and pulled up as he was crossing the road he put the laptop on the hood of the car then took off running. Because of the traffic our neighbor couldn't get on the road, so he lost him. The doors were locked, but the window slats on one door were open, so he reached in and opened the door. It could have been a lot worse—he left some cash on top of the dresser, as well as the credit cards that were beside my watch. I guess he didn't recognize my camera—it's very small. If we had been home I doubt he would have tried—seems he was just a kid.

--

Tol Burk
P.O. Box 50182
Toa Baja, PR 00950
(787) 998-2098
(787) 930-6341 cell
blog: caribbeanpost.blogspot.com
www.priglesiadecristo.com