



Puerto Rico Report

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

Planting and Watering

Greetings to everyone from San Juan, Puerto Rico! Anna and I are excited to be here, and we appreciate the help and interest that everyone reading this has shown toward what we are doing. The month of November has seen us continue to settle into our new home, and has also presented us with some exciting opportunities in teaching God’s word.

To begin with, I have begun teaching a class on 1 Corinthians for the English-speaking church, as well doing the preaching in English every Sunday. The class is going well and everyone is very attentive to what is being taught. Recent sermons have addressed hospitality and togetherness, feeling right vs. being right spiritually, commitment to God, authority, and the meaninglessness of life without God, among other topics. I have also taught class twice and preached once in Spanish since we have arrived. My Spanish still needs a lot of work, but I am already seeing vast improvement in both Anna’s and my ability in the language.

In addition to that, one of the members of the English-speaking group, Carmen Burgos, fell and broke her foot in late October. I asked shortly after that if we could continue the 1 Corinthians class with her in her home, and she immediately agreed. Her sister, who is not a Christian and also happens to be

our landlady, is someone that we have been hoping to influence. We have tried, then, to plan those studies for when she is present. When she is there, she usually does not sit with us, but she is obviously listening to what is being said. Our hope is that as we continue to care for Carmen while she is recovering and as we continue the studies, that we will make a good impression with her sister. It will not be long before we ask her and her husband to study with us.



Carmen Burgos with Dana Burk (top left) and Tabitha Petrousse, a visiting friend of ours, (top right).

In addition to that, Tol Burk (the other American preacher in San Juan) has made contact with a couple (Guillermo Sanchez and Laticia Padilla). Guillermo is around 27 years old, and Laticia is a bit younger, and both are extremely interested in the gospel. They have been to several churches looking for the truth, and came into contact with Tol through priglesiadecristo.com (Ed Rangel’s website). Tol and I have studied with them once already, and they are excited about continuing the studies and attending the Spanish-speaking services at Caparra Terrace. Tol generally leads the Spanish studies with them (as his Spanish is better), but he will be gone for several weeks this month, and I plan to continue with them (if they are able over the holidays) while he is gone.

Please pray with us regarding all of these chances to teach, and may God give the increase.

December 9, 2009

Additional Notes

A couple of exciting things will happen here, Lord willing, after the first of the year.

- Several of the brethren, including Anna and I, live in apartment complexes or neighborhoods with convenient public meeting places within them. We hope to dedicate one month to each location, and plan a series of about 3 studies at that place per month, and invite people to come. Several hundred people live in each location, so there are many opportunities, and hopefully the facts that some will know our members and that none of the residents will have to leave their complex or neighborhood to attend will draw a few people to those studies who would not come all the way to the building.
- The Spanish-speaking church is considering a gospel meeting in the early months of next year. The details have yet to be arranged, but the chance to invite people to attend and the strength the members will receive from it are things to look forward to.

As I mentioned earlier, our Spanish is seeing some improvement. I am currently translating outlines into Spanish, and Carmen Burgos (who is a translator by profession) is helping me edit the grammar so that I can preach them. I am getting more and more comfortable delivering them, and this process is quickly helping my Spanish ability too. Many, many thanks to her for her effort - she is doing it for the Lord, and deserves your prayers of thanks to God.

One final note: I apologize for the delay in this report. It was supposed to go out on the 5th of this month, and was delayed due to a bout with the flu that has had Anna and I on our backs for almost a week now. No swine were involved in this flu, fortunately, and we are recovering, but I did want everyone to understand the reason this is coming closer to the middle of the month than to the beginning.

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