

OCTOBER 2007 REPORT

November 5, 2007

Dear Brethren,

October has been an interesting month, not only for the work here, but for us individually. Dana and I are both well, although our trip to the States (Oct. 10-30) was tiring. I trust you are all well also.

It was nice to enjoy some cooler weather, but that lasted about 30 minutes I think—our bodies have already acclimated to the Caribbean and of course we don't really have the clothes for temperatures in the 50's or below anymore. We also enjoyed spending a few days with our daughter Kristi, who lives in Atlanta. We also spent a week with our son in Franklin, Ky and his family while I preached a Gospel meeting there. His 3 year old daughter kept us in stitches the whole time—she doesn't mind talking and she has a country drawl that won't quit. From there we went to Columbia, TN, and I preached at Collegevue and Jackson Hts, before going on to Montgomery to preach the 28th.

The work was carried on very ably while we were gone by Ed Rangel. He is settling in—he bought a car from one of the brethren in Dorado, so now has his own transportation. In fact, he received several leads from a couple of sources. He spent a couple of hours on the phone with a Dr. who is in the National Guard and is spending 4-6 weeks in the States right now. Javier has been attending the sound church at Ft. Drum, NY and was referred to us by the preacher there. He lives in Puerto Rico, not too far from the church building and is a member of the closest liberal church to us. But apparently he's not very happy there, as he was all excited to talk to Ed and looks forward to working with us when he gets home (at the end of the month), etc. Obviously we don't know where this will lead, but he may be one of those who is seeking and the Lord is sending him to us.

We visited with Gil Canegro again—he is the Father in law of one of our members, Raul Marquez. He seems amenable to a study, but doesn't see the urgency of it. His wife is having problems with her blood pressure fluctuating wildly, so they are spending a lot of time with Doctors, labs, etc. We have good doctors here, but few work by appointments, so you can be in the office 3-5 hours.

We have planned to “jumpstart” the work here in Nov. Beginning on the 7th we will have Bible study on Wed. nights again in English. Our plans are to have a six week overview of the book of Revelation, which we are advertising in the San Juan Star, the English newspaper and are hoping to get advertised on the English radio as well. Advertising in the newspaper is very expensive—\$756 for (4) 3 X 2 ads in the Star, it would have been over \$1600 on El Nuevo Dia, but I guess with a potential readership of 4 million people that's what it costs. Our plans are to conclude this study on Dec. 12th and though we will continue to have Bible study on Wed. night to have a 4 part series on suffering during Jan., another series on How to study the Bible in Mar-Apr., etc. There are at least 30,000 people who speak primarily English, but they are scattered not only all over the island, but throughout every neighborhood. All the members live in “mixed” neighborhoods—we are the only “Americanos” in our neighborhood. Because of this about the only way to find them is through advertising.

We are also planning a Thursday through Sunday Gospel meeting, with Ed and I preaching, for the 15th-18th of Nov. Our hope is to encourage the brethren, as well as invite brethren from the liberal church as well—there is only one other English speaking church which happens to be fairly close to us. I keep hearing that things are not going so well there because of the leadership, so we'll see if we can reach any of them.

We will tonight begin a “weekend meeting” with Jose Coronado, who works with the Spanish speaking church that meets in the Embry Hills building, in Atlanta, GA. He, Ed, and I have been passing out tracts in the neighborhoods around the church building this week, trying to let people know we're here and actively working again. Most people know we're here, but “you're only there on Sunday”. Door knocking, even here, is a very hard way to make contacts, but our real purpose was fulfilled—letting the neighbors know we're here.

Brethren, my financial support continues the same, well almost. The English speaking church began supporting Ed and I each \$100 a month, which brings my level of support up to \$7800 a month. As the price of gasoline escalates again, it hits us with a double whammy. Not only does the cost of driving go up, but so does the cost of everything here. Like in the States, everything we buy has to be transported, but most of it has to come by boat from Florida. Our electricity is also generated with gasoline, which means its cost goes up, which not only affects us “at home” but also raises the prices of everything else. Things are getting tight—I'm anticipating a cost of living raise from one church at the beginning of the year, but the \$30-40 will not be enough.

I will lose \$200 a month in support, but the church here has already taken up \$100 of that and an individual will take up the other \$100 at the first of the year.

Please continue to pray for us and the work here.

Your brother,

Tol Burk, San Juan, PR