

SERVING THE LORD IN PUERTO RICO

NEWS FROM THE SHARP FAMILY



SPREADING THE WORD AROUND THE ISLAND

We currently have three missions in three different parts of Puerto Rico - Príncipe de Paz in Mayagüez on the west coast, Fuente de Vida in Ponce on the south coast, and Cordero de Dios in Bayamón (Metro San Juan) in the north. Our goal is to plant a church within 20 minutes of every Puerto Rican, so we need to continue to plant churches.

As we make contacts, we will start new ministries - Bible studies, men's group, English classes - to continue to make *more* contacts, get those people going to one of our missions, get them in catechesis and baptized, and then, when we have a critical mass, start having worship services there and begin a new mission.

We currently have some contacts all over the island, and we visit them and encourage them to come to church at one of our missions even once in a while. Now we have growing groups in Carolina, east of San Juan, and Arecibo, west of San Juan, with confirmed members who are attending our churches and contacts and people with connections. The next step is getting a Bible study started in those two cities during the week and maybe something on Saturdays. Pray for all our missions and our new work in Arecibo and Carolina!



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to james.sharp@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

Reaching out through education



Left: Angie helps Mikaela, one of the members of Ponce's After School Club, with a lesson in gardening.
Right: Angie helps the littlest ones get used to Sunday School at the church in Bayamón.



After School in Ponce

The first semester of After School Club finished up in December with an open house inviting parents and students from the local elementary schools to come check us out. The new semester has begun and is going well, although we are a little disappointed that we didn't get any new students. Angie and the Ponce team will keep up with the connections they've made in the schools and keep working to get more participation. It takes time to earn people's trust, so we will keep it up.

Sunday School in Bayamón

Angie teaches Sunday school most weeks at the mission in Bayamón and also helps train and provide materials for other teachers in all the missions. This is very similar to some of the work she did in Uruguay, so she has been able to do a very good job. We have lots of young people and young families, so it is good to teach the kids while their parents are in adult Bible class. It's also a great opportunity to train local leaders to take on responsibilities.

English classes in Ponce and Bayamón

Another important education-based outreach is English classes. Most people in Puerto Rico at least understand a lot of English and many people speak it quite well, but there are a lot of other people who are shy about speaking English or who just want to get better. This includes university students, who often have to take their exams in English. Angie will be doing at least two nights of English classes this semester as an outreach to the community. These classes lead into fellowship activities and have prayer and the Word of God incorporated so that they can truly be an evangelistic outreach, not just a service to the community.

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If you know anyone who would like to receive our newsletter, people can sign up at our website, www.sharpmission.com



Preaching at the mission in Bayamón for Christmas Day

THINGS TO PRAY ABOUT IN JANUARY:

- Pray for the kids and parents of **After School Club in Ponce**, that it would be a great chance to share the Gospel with whole families, and that the contacts Angie and Pastor Neuendorf are making in the local public schools will mean even more people who hear the Gospel.
- Pray for Angie's **English classes** in Ponce and Bayamón. Teaching English is a great way to help people get to know us and open up opportunities to share our faith with them.
- Pray for our **developing missions in Arecibo and Carolina**. Pray for wisdom as we plan our next steps and that the Holy Spirit would lead people to faith through our work.
- Pray for **Elias as he begins basic training for the Air National Guard**.
- Pray for **Ambrose as he awaits college decisions!**



To support the LCMS through the work of James and Angie Sharp and family, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861
or

Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, Iowa 51034

Family updates



Elias, Ambrose, Callie, and Maggie pose for some photos in Old San Juan.



KIDS NEWS

We were able to have all the family together for both Thanksgiving and Christmas - a first for us in a long time. The kids enjoyed escaping the very cold Midwestern weather for some sun (and a lot of rain) in Puerto Rico.

Elias is keeping busy as he nears his date to ship off for basic training for the Air National Guard. Unfortunately, getting a security clearance (and therefore a date for basic) was delayed by several things, including the government shutdown, and he will end up having to miss three semesters of school instead of two. If all goes well, he will return to the University of Iowa in the Spring 2027 semester.

Ambrose is a senior and has college on his mind, too, as he considers the schools that have accepted him and waits for news from a few others.

We know we would not be doing this important work without your help. For your prayers, support, and encouragement, THANK YOU!

Yours in the True Light,

James, Angie,
Elias, Ambrose, Callie, and Maggie
John 1:9

Callie is a junior and is busy with school, cheerleading, and student government. Maggie is getting involved in the drama club after playing volleyball in the fall.

All three St. Paul kids made the honor roll this past semester! Great job, kids!

THANKS!!

A big thank you to all the people who sent us Christmas cards!

If you want to send us mail, our address is
90 Ave Laguna
Cond Alexis Park Apt 1130
Carolina PR 00979

You can send mail to the kids at St. Paul
205 S. Main Street
Concordia MO 64020



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."