

July 2023 Prayer Letter

Update

The past few months have certainly flown by but God has been so good in allowing us to continue to prepare in our transition into our pre-field ministry. Praise the Lord we have created all of our materials, published our website (www.gastrockstopuertorico.com) and even completed a missions conference!



Last month, Laura, Charlotte and I were able to travel to Puerto Rico to meet with the property owners of the house and camp property we are interested in. We met with Ms. Bebe who owns the house up the road from Pastor Martinez's church and were able to tour the property. We believe the home would be a great fit for our family and are praying for God's direction and timing if it would be His will for us to pursue purchasing. We were also able to meet with Kenny, the property owner of the land we are looking at for the camp. The land is an inheritance to Kenny and his siblings who are evidently in litigation over the estate. Kenny is hoping to sell the property so the proceeds can be distributed and committed to sending me the formal

documents he has on the property.

While on the island, Laura and I were able to drive into the mountains and see many remote homes tucked away in very austere conditions. I was burdened by the clear need to share the Gospel into the remote areas of the island and struck by how quickly the Americanized feeling of the cities fades into the austere jungle that feels like a 3rd world country. What a tremendous opportunity this presents for believers, especially young people, to get their feet wet in international missions work! On our flight home I was able to witness to a 16 year old young man named Mandell. During our conversation, he mentioned that he does not have a single good male role model in his life. This struck me and reminded me of the great need in today's youth for the Gospel of Christ as well as the need for believers to be Godly examples both to the saved and the lost in the world.



Work operational tempo remains high and I will be relinquishing command on August 7th then formally retiring on August 22nd. God continues to provide us opportunities to serve and grow at our home church, Harvest Baptist and we are amazed at how the Lord continues to meet our needs, including being trained and prepared for the work of the Ministry. We are excited to finish this chapter of our life and begin our full-time service to the Lord beginning in September.

Prayer Requests

- That Mandell would trust Christ as his Savior
- Spiritual protection of our Family
- Property for Camp in Ceiba PR
- Potential house across from church in Ceiba PR
- Grace for family during transition from USMC to Ministry
- Meetings with churches