



Operation Saturation Puerto Rico News!!!

MISSIONARY OR MISSION FIELD?

My son Samuel and I were privileged by our church to go on a mission trip this last month. Along with 13 other people, coming from 4 different states we converged on the Nashville airport at 5:00 A.M. on September 12th. We embarked on a trip to minister in Puerto Rico for the next 7 days. Our ages ranged from 15 to 75. Our experiences of life ranged from a 15 year old teenager to a 75 year old missionary with over 40 years on the mission field. We had teens, a young couple, several older couples, and several pastors and a youth minister without their mates along. It was quite a group the Lord put together for this mission. We went to Puerto Rico with the idea it would be different. Most groups are from the same locale or church.

We left America without leaving America in many ways. The island is a commonwealth and a territory of the United States. Spanish is the language of the people there with the young beginning to learn English. There were many modern enterprises such as Burger King, Coca Cola and Wal-Mart present. Most people there live simple lives compared to people in the States. Many of the Puerto Ricans do travel back and forth to the mainland and speak of their time in New York, Pennsylvania, or California. They are U.S. citizens but they do not get to vote nor do they pay U.S. taxes. As their car tag reads, it is the island of enchantment.

We found the people enchanting. They were very friendly. We distributed many tracts and information about the churches there. Very few of the people refuse to take a tract or information about the churches. We had a Catholic nun take information about the church. It was a wonderful experience to pass out tracts there. The people were receptive.

I realized again how much people in my own land need the Lord. We need to be doing the same witnessing in our own neighborhoods seeking to get people to Christ and the fellowship of the saints in our churches. Everyone needs the love of Jesus in their heart. We went to see people saved. I led a man to the Lord in Ponce' on the south side of the island. We heard of several others that prayed to receive Christ. It is a blessing to witness of Jesus and His love for us.

I am thankful to our tour leader brother Ken Akers and Master's Men organizing this trip. It was spiritually challenging to me to be a better servant where I am. We may not all be able to go but we can pray and we can give so others may serve. I gained a greater appreciation for the sacrifices of our missionaries. God has great rewards in store for them.

God has a mission for all of us. If we have not realized it, then we are still a mission field. Which are you? Are you a missionary or a mission field?

Pastor Eddie Hodges
Hendersonville, Tennessee

Dear Bro. Ken,

I want to be on of the first if not the first to thank you for heading up the trip to Puerto Rico. Indeed it was a great blessing.

One of the things that I noted was Bro. Bud's effort to take care of us. He and his wife are excellent servants of the Lord. To house, entertain, feed and coordinate the work was so kindly done.

I'm glad I had the opportunity to contribute a little to the overall operation. I left there a better man than when I got there. Oh yes, those young boys were a blessing. From now on I'll be known as "the old man." Great !!!

Again, I thank you for making it possible for me to go. May the dear Lord bless you and your family as you are away from them so much.

Sincerely in Christ,
Paul Robinson

Greetings in the Name of Jesus,

We had a wonderful time on the trip. The trip was exactly what we had anticipated. Lot's of work and good fellowship with other Christians and a better understanding of mission work. The last day or so I developed a terrible cold and did not feel well other than that it was a wonderful trip. We did not expect it to be a vacation and we were happy that we were able to help our missionaries with some things that it might have taken them a long time to accomplish. We look forward to a time when we might be able to go on another mission's trip, but with Sherry's arthritis becoming worse I doubt that we will be able to accomplish this. I suppose that is why we enjoyed this one so much. We thank you for your guidance and involvement. The Master's Men Department chose the right man for this position, you are accomplishing a great deal for the Lord.

In His Service,
Pastor Stanley K. Kononpinski
Oklahoma City, OK