

Puerto Rico Work Report (November 2021)

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Greetings Brethren in our Lord Jesus,

We pray that the work of the Kingdom is going well where you are. This past month was very eventful, and we are thankful to God for His constant care and protection in our travels and challenges. At the end of October, I was originally scheduled to hold a gospel meeting in Wichita, KS but it was delayed to November due to a double infection that left me very sick. Thanks be to God, even though I was sick for about 3 weeks, I was able to make a recovery before the gospel meeting in November. Thankfully, throughout our travels my health was good, but sadly after arriving back to Puerto Rico later in the month I had a bad case of what appeared to be food poisoning that left me sick for several days. I am grateful for God's help throughout all the sickness I have had recently, and I am even more thankful for the good days of health that I currently have. I hope and pray that the future will bring smoother and less eventful times for my health. I appreciate the prayers on behalf of my health and work.

Travels in November

At the beginning of November, we left Puerto Rico and flew into Kansas City, where we got to spend a day and a half with our families before heading down to Wichita. It had been about 8 years since I had my last gospel meeting in Wichita, and I was very excited to see the brethren at the Westside church of Christ in Wichita again as well as see their growth in the Lord. We had an excellent gospel meeting and each night after the meeting there were lots of questions and discussions about the topics. My gospel meeting theme was “Living as Exiles in Post-Christian America.” My major premise of the series is that we need to adopt the Biblical perspective that America is not a “Christian” nation, rather is a form of the pattern of Babylon. Thus, we need to come out of the culture of Babylon (America) and put on the culture of Christ in holiness. We discussed many applications like community, raising children, social media, pornography, and idolatry. Kaitlin also had the opportunity to teach a ladies' class on the topic of pornography the same night that I taught the men's class on the same topic. Even though I was very direct the brethren in Wichita, they welcomed the exhortations and actively engaged with the topics. I was super encouraged to see many young people and young families critically and actively engaging the material. It was an excellent meeting and we left very encouraged. If you are interested in listening to any of the lessons I presented, some of the meetings' sermons are available here –

(http://cocwestside.com/sermons2/?wpfc_preacher=caleb-westbrook)



Preaching at the gospel meeting in
Wichita, KS.

After the gospel meeting in Wichita, we then headed down to Texas where we got to visit many brethren in different areas of the state. We had the chance to visit brethren and friends with whom we used to work during our time in Texas prior to Puerto Rico. We also had the wonderful opportunity to visit two congregations that help support me in my work: Northwest church of Christ in Arlington, TX and Parkview church of Christ in Pasadena, TX. The Sunday after the meeting I had the opportunity to preach at Northwest in Arlington. It had been about 5 years since I had seen the congregations in Texas and even though our visit was short, it was such an encouragement to be able to see one another face to face again. Overall, it was a whirlwind trip, visiting



Brother Jonathan preaching in San Seb

Christians all over Texas and the churches that help support me. Yet, we are so thankful for the fellowship of faithful brethren in different areas and our hearts were uplifted by this wonderful trip.

Return to Puerto Rico

The day after we returned from the states, we were happy to receive Jonathan and Anastasia Carswell at our home. The Carswell's came to visit Puerto Rico and had the opportunity tour the island. Brother Jonathan is fluent in Spanish, and he was able to preach for the group here in San Sebastian. The Carswell's stayed with us for two days, but unfortunately, I was sick with food poisoning during that time. Nevertheless, in the time that we did get to spend with them we were very encouraged by them. Their zeal and desire to work for the progress of the gospel are evident and we loved getting to meet them. We hope that they will come back to visit us again soon.

After the Carswell's visit Thanksgiving was upon us and as per our tradition for the past few years, we hosted a Thanksgiving celebration at our house where we invited all the brethren from San Sebastian as well as the Holt family from San Juan. We had a wonderful time together and were encouraged by the brethren. Kaitlin did a wonderful job managing all of the plans over the past month. With traveling to the states, receiving visitors, helping me through my illness, and planning a Thanksgiving get-together at our house, she had her hands full. Kaitlin is such a vital part of the work here and her impact cannot be overstated. I am so thankful for her godly dedication and partnership in our work together.



Thanksgiving at our house with the brethren

At the end of November, I was able to get back into the swing of things for the work here. Eric has been teaching a class on the book of Proverbs in San Sebastian and I have been preaching the sermons. Additionally, I have been meeting with brethren more frequently in the Arecibo area. Brother Edwin, from Arecibo, and I have been studying more and we recently had a study on authority and the local church. Edwin has a good mind and open heart, and he is understanding more of the problems of institutionalism. He is eager to study more and is helping me edit some of my Spanish bible class materials. Edwin has also been a great encouragement to me through his personal work in getting bible studies with many people. I am hoping to have more continued studies with Edwin and with more of the contacts he has in the Arecibo area. In other news, Eric and I have been trying to follow up with Edgar, who was baptized in September. We had a study with him at the end of October regarding his marital situation and since then we have yet to be able to make contact. It is a difficult situation, and we hope and pray that Edgar will be open to hearing and obeying the truth. We will continue to work to try to reach him.

As always, thank you for your continued support in our work here. We are so thankful for the fellowship we share in the Kingdom's work. If you have any questions regarding the work or situation here in PR, please feel free to contact me anytime. May God bless you greatly and always protect you! Keep on faithfully in His work!

Grace be with you always,
Caleb B. Westbrook