



2018 Puerto Rico Mission Trip

February 7, 2018

Dear Farmington First Church,

Recently I made a decision to go on a short-term mission trip with Newburg United Methodist Church. I'm excited about the opportunity God is giving me to share the love of Jesus in Puerto Rico and I'm writing to tell you more about it and how you can be involved.

As you know, this past September Puerto Rico was hit by Hurricane Maria, a category 4 storm. This storm made direct impact with the island, bringing 155 mile an hour winds and several feet of rain. Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rossello declared this a humanitarian disaster affecting 3.4 million U.S. citizens. What you may not know is that today, many months after this catastrophic storm, almost half of the island is still without power. Those who are lucky enough to have generators struggle to continue to afford the gas required to run those generators. Tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans are still without roofs on their homes, continuing to expose their homes, belongings and themselves to the elements. The U.S. Government offers a blue roof program where residents can apply for a temporary blue tarp roof designed to last approximately 30 days. To be eligible for this program, you must have less than 50% structural damage to your home. Approximately 70,000 people applied for this program. With so many applicants across the island, as of December 18th, only one third of residents that have applied for this program have received their temporary roofs.

As with many natural disasters, help comes first to people closest to major cities. Many of those in smaller, more rural villages have yet to see any help putting their lives back together after the storm. Residents are now dealing with issues regarding lack of power and safe drinking water, complications from mold due to flooding, and transportation as many roads are still blocked with debris.

This trip is especially meaningful to our Newburg family as our music director, Yabetza, is from a small town in Puerto Rico. Our team will be traveling to her home town of Bayamon Puerto Rico on March 3rd. Our goal is to bring some hope and some help to the people of Bayamon. With your help, we hope to provide roof tarps for 15 families in Bayamon and surrounding communities. We will be helping to remove debris and clean up flood damage. We will be providing meals in the community and new toys for the children.

I am going to need lots of prayers for this trip. Prayer is really the key to successful ministry and this is no exception. Our team needs prayer to be united and to always be focusing on God no matter what we encounter. I will also need prayer for me personally to stay looking to God and that God will be able to shine through me to bring some hope to the people of Puerto Rico. I will also need financial support. My trip will cost about \$2,200 and I am trusting God will supply this for His work. This will cover my transportation and living expenses for the trip, as well as project money for tarps, cleaning supplies and food for the community. If you are able to give financial support, please use a regular offering envelope from your pew and write your name and Puerto Rico mission trip DF4008 to give your tax deductible donation directly to our church. Even if you can't contribute financially, please continue to pray for me and my team as we prepare for our upcoming trip.

In closing, I would like to say thank you for reading this letter and for considering my needs for prayer and financial support. Please contact me if you have any questions. I am extremely excited about this ministry and hope you can share in my excitement.

In His Service,

M. Pat Bradley
Outreach Committee