October 8, 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank God for your partnership in the Gospel and for your faithful prayers. Seeing many of you this summer was such a blessing and encouragement—it reminded us that, though far apart, **we are one in Christ.**

We want to share with you some updates on the outreach God is allowing us to do here. Each one of these efforts is a testimony to His faithfulness and to the creative ways He opens doors for His Word to be shared. In a time when many feel isolated, distracted, or overwhelmed, we see how simple activities can become special moments for Christ to be made known.

Reaching Young Adults

In September Gustavo began a young adult group with fellow missionary Ashley and church members Emmanuel and Miriangely. Their first event was a beach day with volleyball, hotdogs, and a Bible study on marriage. Three new young adults joined them!

In a world where social norms and media often lead young people away from God, these kinds of gatherings are essential. They offer fellowship and biblical truth in a relaxed setting. Praise God for these moments to strengthen each other in faith. Please pray for their next gathering: a roller skating night on October 11th.

Ladies' Craft Workshop

On September 13th, Sandra, one of our church members, led a craft workshop for women, organized by Ruth. The response was overwhelming - 20 women signed up, though we could only host 10. We plan to repeat the event next month for the rest of the ladies. The day began with a devotion and prayer. This set the tone for a Christ-centered day, as participants worked on their crafts from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Many of the women who came are not regular churchgoers, so this gave us a chance to connect, listen, and speak God's Word into their lives. Please pray that these new relationships grow deeper.

Piano Lessons

In September, Ruth began teaching piano lessons to seven students. One of them, Maritza, drives two and a half hours every Saturday with her six-year-old nephew to attend. She leaves her house at 6:30 a.m. just to make it to class!

Raised by her grandparents with many siblings, she never had the chance to take lessons as a child. Now, as an adult, she is filled with joy at the opportunity to learn. We're also connecting her with our sister church in the north of the island, where Jose Beede (our church musician and teacher) is serving. Jose has just begun online seminary studies through Concordia Seminary in the Dominican Republic. Please pray for Jose and his family as he pursues the call to become the first Puerto Rican pastor on the island.

English Classes with a Gospel Purpose

Every Thursday, Ruth teaches English to four new students. One of the class goals is to learn the Lord's Prayer. After learning a new phrase in English, the group returns to Spanish to review "What does this mean?" in Luther's Small Catechism. In this way, spiritual truths are brought into each lesson. One student shared that he had a rough childhood and never saw the need to learn English. Now, he enjoys the classes and is excited to learn little by little. At the end of the semester, we will invite the students to church to recite the Lord's Prayer in English. Please pray for these seeds being planted.

Wednesday Bible Study and Fellowship

In an effort to reach more people, we moved our Wednesday Bible study to the food court at the mall. It was there that Ruth met three expecting mothers, all gathered by God's perfect timing. She gave them baby gifts made by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) of Ontario, Canada. In Puerto Rico, babies are relatively rare, with most families having only two children; thus, it was a joyful and surprising time of connection. Each gift had a sticker with our church info, and we're praying we'll see those mothers again soon. We also look forward to hosting a mother and child event at church.

Future Plans: Outdoor Outreach

As the weather cools, we plan to use the outdoor kitchen and campfire area in front of our church for future outreach events. It's a welcoming, visible space where we hope to gather people around food, fellowship, and God's Word. Stay tuned!

Family Update

Our family is doing well. Mikha is learning piano and now the recorder. She has also mastered blowing up and tying balloons. She enjoys playing with her younger siblings and is great at making them laugh.

Isaiah turned four on October 4th. He still loves biking, pushing his dump truck to "cut the grass," and playing soccer (which he calls "Barcelona") with his grandpa. He now proudly gets dressed all by himself.

Ivanna is one and a half and walks quickly—with her toes pointed out. She loves exploring, getting into everything, and bugging Isaiah by pulling his hair or touching his toys.

And... we're expecting a new baby at the end of October! We're thankful for this gift of life and ask for your prayers during this season of growth.

A big family update: Gustavo's father, Gustavo Sr., was recently granted U.S. residency and has just arrived to live with us. He's a huge help around the house and at church. We're praying that his wife will be able to join us after her immigration interview Oct. 9th.

Gustavo also recently acquired a pasta maker and he loves cooking fresh noodles with the kids. It's a little messy, but a lot of fun.

Once again, we are deeply grateful for your love, support, and prayers. The mission here continues only by God's grace and through the generosity of supporters like you. Please continue to pray for our family, our church, and all the people God brings across our path.

In Christ,
Pastor Gustavo, Ruth, Mikhaela, Isaiah, and Ivanna Maita
P.S. We love you!