



Missionaries Jorge and Rebeca Santiago live in Puerto Rico with their children, Sebastian and Sophia.

When Hurricane Maria Hit Puerto Rico

In September 2017, a massive hurricane hit the small island territory of Puerto Rico. Winds, rain, and flooding destroyed much of the island. Many people died, and thousands were left without power or even lost their homes. Some families lost all of their possessions.

“As Maria was passing through Puerto Rico, we started hearing all the noises,” says missionary Jorge Santiago. “Because it was dark, we couldn’t see anything, but we could hear everything.”

For 12 hours, winds roared across every square mile of Puerto Rico.

“People were really afraid and desperate, desperate,” recalls Santiago. “They knew there was not a way to get resources—water or food—because no one was suspecting that Maria was going to hit that hard.”

Jorge, Rebeca, and many people on the island began to help one another right away. Jorge knew that this would be an important time to show people the love and hope that comes from Jesus.

Ten days after the hurricane hit, Southern Baptist disaster relief workers were able to arrive on the island to help. They, too, spread the message of Jesus while they helped people recover from the hurricane.



Send Relief is a disaster relief ministry that serves people all over the world when disasters hit. They help people with their physical needs—like food and medical care—and with their spiritual needs.



Many Christians gave offerings to help people who lost everything when Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico. Volunteers went to Puerto Rico to share the love of Jesus on the island.



Ten days after Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico, Send Relief sent volunteers to the island to help. Many churches gave offerings to help.