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# THE HOOGEVEEN'S

## MISSIONARIES TO THE CARIBBEAN

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To begin, we want to thank you for being so patient and supportive of our family as we have adjusted to stateside life. It has been a long and challenging process. Your support has meant so much to us and has given continued strength to grow. Thank you so much.

We want to share with you what God has been doing in our lives over the past couple months. Upon arriving from Puerto Rico not knowing what was next proved challenging. Thankfully, we have a God who already knew our next steps ahead of time. Shortly after returning I (John) started working for Barnabas Ministries in Zeeland, MI as a mentor to teen boy's. Barnabas took my family under their wing like we were always one of their own. Not too long after my working there, Moran Park Church in Holland had contacted us and wanted to hear our heart and share some things with us. Moran Park has been a major influence in our life while in Puerto Rico, training both Jennifer and I in evangelism, discipleship, and house church planting through Biglife. During our time with Moran they made it clear that they wanted to come along side us in support. Their exact words were, "We want to walk through the hard with you." Jennifer and I were both very excited. As we continued to pray about our next steps, Barnabas continued to play a huge role in our life also offering Jennifer a ministry position working for them; she takes care of their Pen Pal program; none of which we asked for, God provided these two areas of ministry for us.

Both Jennifer and I still had a desire to go into the field, the Caribbean was still on our heart. Maria could not take that from us. Knowing our long-term plan was to go back into the field, and that a sending church and a supporting ministry would be beneficial, we prayed about this. Jennifer and I approached Moran Park about being our sending church and they agreed that this is what God wanted. We then approached Barnabas about walking with us on this journey, they too agreed. This is an exciting step for us. We now have a supportive sending church (Moran Park) and a supportive ministry partner (Barnabas Ministries).

The Moran Park mission board had noticed that re-entry care for our family was necessary due to the trauma experienced with leaving the field abruptly due to Hurricane Maria. They connected us to Heartstreams Resources, a missionary re-entry care ministry in Pennsylvania. We made the arrangements to go and Moran Park sent my family and I there for a two-week intensive care retreat. In the mean time I had been invited to a men's evangelism trip to St. Croix by Pastor John E. Smith of The Shepherds Fold Church. I accepted the invitation. Jennifer, Dallas, and I had spent some time with Pastor John and his family last year and felt a calling to work together in the near future. As we continued to pray about our next steps we knew the Caribbean played a part. As we arrived at Heartstreams we were looking for healing but also clarity on these things. While at Heartstreams we went through intensive classes and intensive quiet time and prayer. The Lord

continued to speak to us. We were able to have a conversation with Pastor John about working in St. Croix and coming alongside his church in mission's support. The conversation was more than we had expected. As we shared our heart for evangelism and a desire to spread the gospel across the entire Caribbean, Pastor John laughed. They have been praying for families to come down for just that reason!

Our time at Heartstreams, as well as personal prayer time and reflection prior to coming, has opened our eyes up for the need for more specific missions training and equipping courses. Over the next year and a half our focus will be on working with Barnabas here in West Michigan, including making periodic ministry focused trips to St. Croix, Puerto Rico, and around the nation evangelizing and training others.

Current trips planned:

- **St. Croix- March 22-30- Funded (Evangelism outreach)**
- **Puerto Rico- April 22-28- Partially funded (Relief Work)**
- **Texas- May 28-June 17- Needs funding (Evangelism and discipleship training)**
- **Puerto Rico- August 3-6- Needs funding (L4J Youth conference- Leading Worship, event pastor)**

I will be working with families and teens through Barnabas in a mentoring capacity as well as other ministry related activities. Jennifer will continue with the Pen Pal program also. Furthermore, comes the main focus of becoming better equipped to go back out into the field in 2019 as missionaries to the Caribbean, working alongside Pastor John and The Shepherds Fold Community Church.

We wish to invite you into the gospel work God is doing around the world through our lives. Please pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you how you can partner with Him through this ministry.

We wish to thank you all so much for your continued support as we prepare our hearts, so God can use us in the Caribbean once again.

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