

MISSION TRIP TO PUERTO RICO - NEWS UPDATES

DAY 1 - SUNDAY, JULY 22, 2018

“The flight to Puerto Rico arrived on schedule today (7/22), and the St. Bart’s group then headed to Arecibo (50 miles west of San Juan) where they will be staying. On Monday, they will be splitting into three teams and will be doing their mission work at one of three sites until Friday. The sites include a children’s summer camp, a local Episcopal church, and the Salvation Army. We hope to get updates from the youth at the various sites throughout the week so stay tuned. Please continue to keep everyone on the trip in your prayers.”



DAY 2—MONDAY, JULY 23, 2018

"Today was a wonderful start to our mission trip. I worked with many wonderful and lively 7 and 8 year olds, helping them with arts and crafts and running around outside during recess. Getting to communicate with these kids even though some of them knew little English was incredible especially because it challenged me to communicate in a way that wasn't always expressed by words. We, as an entire group (3 churches), have bonded over worship and spent time together, including our trip to the beach tonight and have begun to learn about Puerto Rican culture and new perspectives, one of which is we are not bringing God to Puerto Rico, He is already here. We are just sharing in the love of God with these people, and I am so excited to continue our journey throughout the rest of the week. Our group has already formed strong relationships with the other churches here and the people in the community and our great Youth Works leaders. I can't wait to go back tomorrow!"

~ Written by Ingrid Frayer as a member of the team at the Sembry Planet Youth Camp (other St. Bart's members at this site are Ray Lo Paw, Christopher Strasser, Alex Mueller, Tammy Prather, and Karl Mueller)



DAY 3—TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2018

"For my worksite I went to a couple's house. At first I didn't think it would be fun, but it ended up being one of my favorite experiences. Their names were Luiz and Avacelli. They had three kids: a newborn, a 7 year old (Noah) and a 9 year old (Leah). We worked on whatever they wanted us to do, but before that Avacelli told us her testimony about how God has worked in their lives. I thought that was very nice. They were extremely hospitable from the get-go. They acted like they were our good friends and that eased my nerves. I volunteered to paint Leah's wall pink. I really enjoyed that because Leah kept coming in in awe. After painting, I got to play with Leah and Noah. They were so willing to play with us and didn't treat us like strangers. The couple made us lunch which was seasoned rice with beans and chicken, and it was extremely good after working and playing for hours. Shortly after, we left and it was very sad to say goodbye. All in all it was a great day of service and I'm excited to see what comes next."

~Written by Ter Kwe Lay Htoo (others in her group include Jude Prather, Jacknetson Naw, Cole Knuese, Bill Duke, and Ka Pu Paw)



A small group washes a Salvation Army storage container before painting.

DAY 4—THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2018

"I worked at the Episcopal Church site with the flanes group this week. The first few days a group cleared out some thick brushes/ferns/vines/tall grass with machetes, another leveled dirt so that concrete could be poured for a basketball court, and the last one painted the ceilings of two room white.

On Tuesday, a dude in a bee keeper suit came in and got rid of a bee hive and had cut down some thick parts of a tree that had fallen in the back so that we could work in the area that will end up being the church garden. After the hive was removed, we removed thick branches and thick dead grass.

On Wednesday, we cleared the majority of dead grass and ferns in the back. On Thursday we finished up clearing the majority of surface of the area in the back so that the soil could be tilled.

We also went to a fruit stand, visited nesters place, went to the beach, and saw murals."

~Written by Win San (others in his group include Paw Nyaw Htoo, Ali Mueller, Lay Lo Paw, Vicki Strasser, and Fr. Joel)



Some of our Missioners with the Puerto Rico flag.