

Querida familia en Wisconsin,

Thank you so much for your messages, prayers and support.

As you know, the Hurricane Maria has left severe damages in the whole infrastructure of Puerto Rico. A week after the hurricane, most of the population doesn't have water, power, communication (phone, Internet) and with very limited access to basic services. For instance, to get \$20 dollars of gasoline (some gas stations only allow you to get \$10 dollars), I did a six hours line (from 3 AM to 9AM). You can only pay for the services by cash, but again, you must do a long and extensive line to withdraw money from some of the ATM machines. I'm saying "some" because there are limited ATMs or banks functioning. Actually, you must do line for almost everything. If you are going to buy groceries, medicines or, whatever.

In addition, you must ration your gasoline (and your water as well to drink, bath, etc.) and use your car for important needs. During the first two days after hurricane Maria, I consumed all my gasoline visiting families and checking out the conditions of our church. So, I couldn't visit all the families.

You have difficulties finding opened gas stations because a lot of them were destroyed by the hurricane. Also, you have problems finding ice bags or drinking water which has been rationalized and, as you know, we have a hot weather.

To send you this message, I must go out from my home and drive for about 30 minutes to one of the few communication towers that are still standing up on the San Juan highway to get some signal.

At this moment, we don't know anything from the half of the families of the Divino Salvador Church. So far, we know that we have five families that lost absolutely everything (houses, cars, clothes, furniture, other possessions). Some of them, have family members with special needs and we must help them with urgency.

One of the cases is Nilda Feal. She almost drowned in the flood that suffered her very poor community. She is staying temporarily in the home of another family of our church. She only could rescue her small dog and the cloth she was wearing during the flood (hurricane). Absolutely, nothing else.

I know that you talked to Cathy and, in addition to your prayers, you want to send financial and /or humanitarian help. On last Sunday, we had a Council meeting and we agreed to do all that will be possible to canalize responsibly any received help.

We have other families that didn't lost their homes, but have huge and important damages on its. Thanks to God, all of us are alive and nobody was severely wounded. Cathy herself with her daughter and parents, were rescued from their home because of the floods suffered during the hurricane and were placed in a shelter as other family of our church.

During the hurricane, we lost the roof of our temple. Because of the intensity of the rains, our temple was flooded. By this time, and for a very long time, we are going to meet in the meeting room beside the temple. Pastor Carmelo mentioned me the asbestos problem that this roof has, and because of that, we decided not to use the temple anymore until we are able to manage appropriately this important problem. At this moment, this roof is exposed to water (rains) and runs the risk of falls.

All of us had been affected in one way or in another by this hurricane. In my home, we had some damages, but aren't as big of other families. The devastation is huge and everywhere, letting all of us totally uncommunicated and without the possibility of going out of our homes for some days because of the roads conditions. Some towns or areas didn't have any access to go in or out. It's sad to see this beautiful island on these conditions.

Pastor Twiton and Jerry, If we can talk by phone, my wife Lory can help us. Could we talk tomorrow (Friday, September 29) at noon (PR time)? I can give you more details by phone.

Dios les bendiga,

Pastor Gabriel