

# Aliceas' Ministry in PR

NOVEMBER 2016



Dear Friends and Faithful Supporters,

Greetings, from rainy Puerto Rico! Yes, I said it – RAINY! After living here for three years I have never experienced so much rain in one month's time! Rain complicates things here in Puerto Rico because it tends to shut down roads, causes flooding, and keeps people boarded up in their homes—not to mention we will start the day as sunny as can be and by mid-afternoon we are hearing and seeing thunder and lightning quickly changing the whole outlook of the day. This has caused some complications with club attendance. It hasn't been safe for kids to be out during these storms so our attendance has shifted some throughout the weeks. Thankfully, our God is good and on the days where the rain is nonexistent the kids come running back to club. Also, our island is very green and flourishing right now!

We look forward to the rainy season subsiding soon so we can get back to having club everyday and continuing to spread the truth of God's saving grace to these very needy children.

We have had some exciting and sad experiences through our ministry these last few months. One of our faithful club attendees lost her father to an armed robbery just last month. It brought lots of shock and confusion to our kids. I was able to take the time to encourage our kids with the hope we can have in Christ and the way we can extend love to someone who has recently gone through a horrific tragedy. The kids quickly stepped up to the plate and immediately started praying for this sweet girl in club and extended warm hugs and compassion to her in school. She quickly came back to club and is doing well despite the circumstances.

We also were able to host our second theological conference in October. Jeremy Clark (the executive director of GMI) was able to come and expand on the topics that we started studying with Craig MacDonald. We had a good amount of people in attendance and are now planning on having our first ever Missions Conference in early spring. We are very excited about the idea of stirring up Puerto Ricans to become missionaries to other parts of Latin America. Please pray for this conference and for those who may be called to get up and go.

It is hard to believe that I (Kaylah) am coming up on the three-year mark of serving here in Puerto Rico. So much has changed in my personal life with the marriage to my husband, the birth of our daughter, and now to find out we are expecting baby #2 joining our family in early May! I'm thankful for the growth and experience I personally have gained through starting and leading this ministry as well. God has completely overhauled my heart and life and I could not be more grateful.

However, with all these changes come new leadings in life and different foci. This spring I will be the mother of two very young children and serving a husband who is still working part-time at Sears while assisting me with club. It has become evident that the Lord has been doing quite a lot of work in our hearts about the future of our family and the ministry here in Puerto Rico. Harry and I really began praying about what the



Lord has for the ministry and for us earlier this year. At first, we felt like the Lord was telling us to remain here as he worked out some extenuating circumstances.

As we continued to pray about the future, God began to reveal some things to us. My father approached us early last spring with the idea of taking over his second company that is in the Portland, Oregon, area. We were a little shocked at first about this opportunity and had to spend copious amounts of time praying about it. We also felt like it was really necessary for my growth as a mother and for our young children that we move closer to family while we are in this stage of life. However, Harry and I were both very concerned about the future of the ministry here in Puerto Rico – so we continued to pray.

Many of you have heard about April Lorenz and her passion for Puerto Rico. She served alongside me for nine months and we spent time talking and praying together as well. It became clear to all of us that God was leading April to serve here in the barrio and continue on in the ministry

we had started. God has gifted her with the same vision, heart, and love for these kids that He has given Harry and me. We could not be more excited and hopeful for the future of this ministry under the leadership of April Lorenz. With that confirmed in all of our hearts, we have accepted the opportunity to take over my father's company next summer and leave Puerto Rico. It is a bittersweet time for us, as we have loved every moment here, even the tough ones, and God has used it all for His glory. The Lord works in mysterious ways and He knew long before any of us did that we would need to transition so I can pour into my own kids and that April would be the perfect fit to carry on the barrio ministry.

We know this may be a bit of shock to some of you, but we want to reassure you that we have spent numerous hours in prayer about this and have sought out godly counsel as well. We also want to reassure you that the ministry will go on! We have always said that this isn't our ministry, but the Lord's. We never wanted to get in the way of His vision for Puerto Rico and He has moved us out to move others in. It's a blessing to see Him work right before our eyes! Our timeline as of now is to stay and finish out the two-year term that Harry and I originally signed on for and have our second child here in Puerto Rico. That would mean that we would plan on moving back to the States in early June 2017. That will also give April time to raise support and, Lord willing, us some time to overlap here on the island to pass things on to her. That is where you come in! You all have been such faithful supports of me and now

Harry these past three years. We are asking you now to consider transferring your support to April in June of 2017 so she can become fully supported and continue the ministry we have started. Our vision and heart will continue to beat here through April and we would love to see all of you support her through this as well. Would you prayerfully consider this for us? Thank you again for all the prayers, outpourings of love, and the financial support you have offered us through the years. Please also know our work is not done! We have many exciting things planned for the next seven months and will still need your support to accomplish them. We just want to let you in on the bigger picture so you too can stand before our awesome God and give Him praise for all He has done and will do here in Puerto Rico.

Feel free to talk with us more if you have any questions or concerns. Also, we hope you get to meet April as she travels the States and raises support for her future here in Puerto Rico. May God continue to bless you richly!

With love,  
Harry, Kaylah, and Selah Alicea

