

Living Foundation Ministries

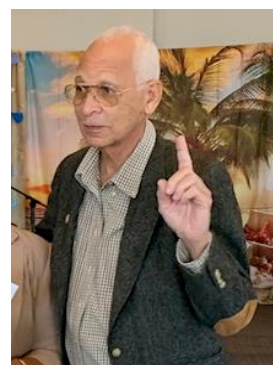
Training Disciples in Puerto Rico

Jan. 26 - Feb. 7, 2025

It was a privilege to be invited by Salvation Army's Captain Bersa Vera to provide biblical counseling training for their officers and pastors from the ten regions of Puerto Rico.



José Santiago, a retired Salvation Army pastor spoke to Chuck at the conclusion of the three-day training, "I do not compliment you on your intellect....but on your wisdom."



"Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives." Col.3:16 NLT

Outstanding Facilities

The leaders' retreat at this beautiful location was to encourage and refresh them as they deal with people's spiritual and physical needs and with the earthquakes, hurricanes and tropical storms.



Terrific Translator

Captain Bersa not only had the ultimate responsibility for the officers' retreat, but she also translated 90% of the hours Chuck taught. Her clarity and gestures mirrored his which made it flow smoothly.



Wisdom, not Knowledge

Psychiatrist Dr. Paul Meier has stated, "In dealing with relational conflicts, it is usually not the lack of biblical knowledge that is the problem, but the lack of practical wisdom to apply that knowledge to specific difficult situations."

Shop Talk

Our board member, Scott Lamaster, an experienced builder, and Captain Bersa spent time discussing how to help her staff deal with the island's many crises and how to repair and restore their damaged and deteriorating facilities.



New York Open Door

Major Diego Bedoya, the pastor to pastors in New York, visited the key leadership in Puerto Rico After attending the officers' retreat, he asked if we would conduct this training for the New York leaders. His burden is to deepen the Salvation Army's discipleship ministry in this population center. Pray with us about this is a potential open door



Who's Singing?

The birdlike chirping sound heard everywhere is the tiny male coqui tree frog. It's found only in Puerto Rico and is their national symbol.

One-Day Training

On Sunday, over 300 Salvation Army church members from the ten churches met in Ponce for a special half day training. After the excellent youth-adult band and praise and worship, Chuck taught three sessions; *How to Use Anger to Reveal Needs*, *How to Forgive from the Heart*, and *How to Work through Conflict and Improve Harmony at Work and at Home*



Grateful Response

After the forgiveness session, Lyanet shared that she now felt so much lighter. She is a psychology major at the university and is willing to let us train her in biblical counseling while she finishes her degree.

Historic Places

We took a few days of R&R and enjoyed Old San Juan and El Morro fortress and the Castillo dating back to the 1500's. Before leaving we also visited the rainforest with its breathtaking waterfalls and lush green tropical foliage. Some of the flora was brought to Puerto Rico by the Spaniards from other islands and as far away as Asia (think, bamboo).



Surprise Encounter

In Old San Juan we asked a lady leaving a beautiful, heavily guarded building what it was. We learned it was the governor's office in the state capital and she was the governor's speech writer. She explained her role and some of the inner workings of the governor's office as Puerto Rico is an unincorporated territory of the U.S., not a state. Scott exchanged cards with her and hopefully on our next visit in July we will get to meet the governor personally.



The Salvation Army's began in England as an evangelistic outreach and then churches were started to disciple the believers. An outgrowth of the Salvation Army churches is community service and disaster relief for which they are widely known. Captain Bersa wants to strengthen the discipleship ministry and asked us to return in July. Of the 300 people who attended our two trainings, she can picture at least 40 people who would commit to four days of intensive training, including practical demonstrations, and be willing to start small groups to train others. This is a sample of the interest in biblical counseling that applies biblical truth to difficult situations.



We as a team thank each of you who made this training possible through your personal encouragement, love, prayers, and financial support, and hundreds of people in Puerto Rico thank you as well.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Chuck and Linda Lynch

Scott Lamaster



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What's Next?