

## Greetings from Puerto Rico in the name of the Lord!

Hi, I'm TE Ronnie Garcia, church planter and missionary to the PCA's first ever church in Puerto Rico—Iglesia La Travesía. In April of 2010, under the vision, guidance, and support of Briarwood Presbyterian Church (Birmingham, Alabama) a small team began evangelism and discipleship in the capital city of San Juan. The work started very small, that is, 6 people in a living room doing a bible study. After two years of grass-roots ministry, we started weekly worship services where 60-70 people attend regularly. More importantly, we have seen men and women pray to receive Christ, marriages restored, and lives healed. The Lord is mightily at work!

When we set out to plant a PCA church in Puerto Rico, we always knew that a single church was not the goal. We were trusting God to begin an entire church-planting *movement*. We long to see a movement of Christ-centered, gospel saturated, reformed churches that focus on evangelism and discipleship. We believe that the Lord is blessing our efforts, as we seek to multiply our reformed distinctives in Latin America. By God's grace, the next steps have become abundantly clear: train and equip godly and teachable Puerto Rican men for the work of ministry and church-planting.

This is where we need your support! We have begun to organize what we are calling a "Church Planter Internship Program." We have identified a few national leaders in whom we want to invest our resources. In this program, these leaders will receive seminary education, philosophy of ministry development, and opportunities to work in every facet of church-planting with coaching and supervision. We believe the key to advancing Christ's kingdom and the beauties of our reformed inheritance are principally through the training and equipping of indigenous leaders, while remaining *in-country*. We have found shocking statistics of pastoral candidates who leave the target culture to study in the United States—only to not return to their home culture. In-country internships are our response to this phenomenon.

Additionally, we can train up local leaders at a fraction of the cost, in comparison to American sent missionaries. For roughly \$30K/year, we can invest in these young leaders full-time. This is where we need your help! Our fledgling mission church has a very humble operational budget that we wish to protect. So we are asking churches and friends to prayerfully and financially partner with Iglesia La Travesía, as we seek to finance the Internship Program.

We understand that there are many worthy places to invest valuable missions' resources. And so it is with all humility that we ask you to consider this particular opportunity. One of the exciting aspects of our work is that we are unapologetically committed to church-planting, and so evangelism and discipleship (and all under the loving care of the PCA). That is to say, in many ways, you can come and see for yourself the progress of our vision.

There is much more to say! From the strategic relationship that Puerto Rico has with the United States, to the incredible influence that Puerto Rico wields in the rest of Latin America. We are convinced that the strategic nature of this work for the advancement of the gospel is on par with all others. It would be my joy to answer any questions! Don't hesitate to call me at 787.550.6387. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

For Christ's Glory!

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