

MISSION STORIES

"Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty, shade from the sun, shelter from the wind, For the Compassionate One guides them, takes them to the best springs."

—Isaiah 49:10

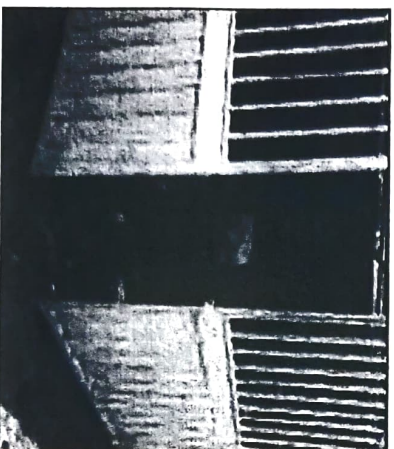


LET LOVE FLOW IN PUERTO RICO

Iglesia Bautista Luz del Mundo Inc. (Light of the World Baptist Church) is a small church in Trujillo Alto, a suburb southeast of Puerto Rico's capital city, San Juan. The area is mostly mountainous and rural, consisting of marginalized communities with a high poverty rate. When COVID-19 hit the island, members of the church came together and started a program to reach out to people in their community who were most vulnerable and at risk for infection. The focus of the ministry was to provide the elderly with hygiene-and-protection kits that would help keep them safe during the pandemic.

Inspired by the story of Dorcas in Acts 7:36-39, a group of seamstresses from the church and the community wanted to use their talents to bless and help others. They called themselves "The Dorcas Seamstresses" and together sewed 200 reusable cloth masks for distribution with the hygiene-and-protection kits.

The Missions Committee



A recipient of a COVID-19 hygiene and protection kit.

assembled 200 kits. With a grant from One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) and donations from members of the church and community, items for each kit were purchased: one cloth mask, three surgical masks, rubbing alcohol, hand sanitizer, soap, and a pair of gloves.

The church faced many challenges in assembling the kits. Because of the pandemic, acquiring materials for the hygiene kits was difficult. Most stores did not have large quantities of the items for sale, so many stores had to be visited. Social-distancing guidelines needed to be followed in assembling the kits and while delivering them to the elderly.

"Everything went little by little," said the Rev. Lydia Rivas Balado, pastor, Iglesia Bautista Luz del Mundo. But the group persevered and was not discouraged by the slow progress.

The elderly were extremely grateful for the visits and the hygiene-and-protection kits they received. "When we visited their homes, they said such things as, "The Lord is good because with your visit we have been blessed," "Nobody has ever brought us protection items for our personal use" and "You always care about others," reported Altita Ruiz, president, Ministry of Social Action and Charity Board.

"It was hard, but we thank God for his care, safety and joy for serving others," said Rev. Rivas Balado. "We praise the Lord because he is good! Thanks to your donation, we were able to reach 200 individuals over age 65 with hygiene-and-protection kits in pandemic time in order to bring hope."

One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING

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