

La Plata Aibonito Puerto Rico

The Project



Iglesia Evangelica Menonita del Calvario

In 2017 Hurricane Maria ravaged Puerto Rico, leveling many buildings and claiming thousands of lives. In the valley of La Plata, outside the town of Aibonito, lies the Iglesia Evangelica Menonita del Calvario, pictured here. Hurricane Maria ripped the front porch off the front of the church and leveled the building that had stood behind the main church. The church quickly pitched in and rebuilt the front porch, but need a little help in rebuilding the structure for their children, envisioning a place not only for their Summer Bible School, but also a building that could serve as an area of refuge for the community during future storms.

The People



Ariel is the Pastor of Iglesia Evangelica Menonita del Calvario. Ariel is more quiet in nature, and defers to his father, Paco, in construction matters. He served as our driver during our time there in January. He understands some English, but speaks very little.



Paco has many years of construction experience, and will confidently fill his role as Project Foreman and the main church representative on the job site. He understands a little bit of English, but speaks very little. He has a quick wit, likes to laugh, and will gladly share his cough drops with you.

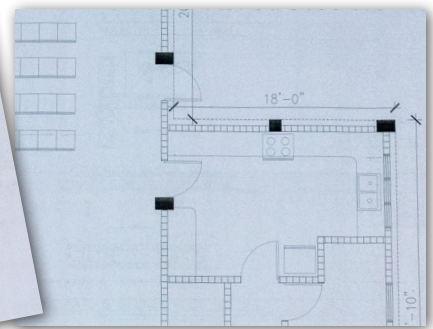
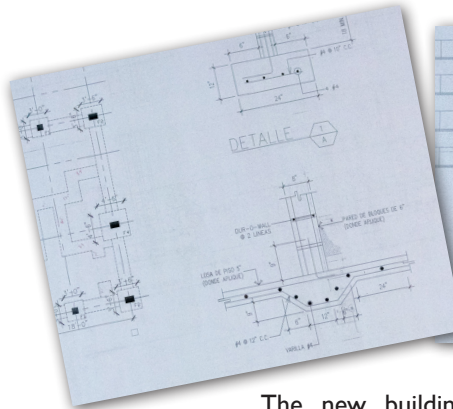


Alena is the wife of Pastor Ariel and will often be seen by his side. Alena is involved in the children's ministry at church. She understands some English, but speaks only a few words.

Felecita was happy to serve as our hostess, making sure we did not go hungry by serving a number of meals in the church and her home. Felecita is fluent in English, and served as a translator in group settings.



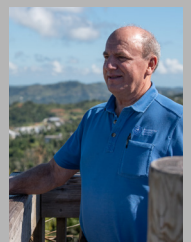
Junior always has a mischievous smile on his face (*except for this one moment when the picture was snapped*). He was always willing to help us eat the food prepared for us, assistance we were glad to have because there was so much!



The new building has been engineered with concrete and steel to withstand the forces of nature at its worst.



Eileen is a bundle of vivacious energy, always smiling and ready to chat. She is fluent in English, and cheerfully served as our translator in our conversations. Eileen is very involved with Mennonite Disaster Service



Rolando is coming in as the Country Administrator for Mennonite Disaster Service. He will be instrumental in keeping the project flowing smoothly. He is fluent in English, but likes to revert to Spanish when needing to more completely express himself.

Larry is the Region I Operations Coordinator for Mennonite Disaster Service. His dedication to ringing the hammer of hope for those suffering through natural disasters is visible.