

## PUERTO RICO AFTER HURRICANE MARÍA:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I will like to share this information with you from my visit to Puerto Rico, El Nuevo Día (News Paper) and a document from my friend Rev. Dr. Peter Padró Jr. and Rick Monéy who is working with the “Church Emergency Response Team” in the island.

Note that this percentages are accurate for the month of October 2017.

People are looking for their families, communication systems are down and there is no electricity. Slowly I drove with no traffic light from San Juan to the South East, got to my brother’s house but nobody was there. Another day I did the same and he was not there but after I visit other relatives I returned and found Him. He was with the Methodist Church of the Town who lose their church building feeding every day 300 people in the community. Amen!

People needed to make lines for everything Gas (1 hour), 1 bag of ice for family medication (2 hours) and I spent days looking for mattresses and I didn’t Find any. This are just some of the great experiences God gave me.

Riverhead UMC became one of the collecting places in the Eastern End and thanks for that we were able to send monetary support through UMCOR, put money in the hand of the PR Methodist Bishop Rev. Hector Ortiz and send Water and unperishable food with the local Hospital.

Here are some statistical from the Church Emergency Response Team.

Puerto Rico has about 12% electric power, mostly in three of its largest cities, San Juan (the capital), Rio Piedras (the hub of banking and large corporations) and Fajardo which is strategically near the Ceiba military base.

77% of the people in the rural areas of Puerto Rico do not have access to drinking water or a decent place to live.

68% of the roads remain cluttered by falling trees, power lines.  
An estimated 33,000 automobiles and other transportation vehicles have been destroyed.

67% of the schools have been either seriously damaged or totally destroyed. The ones that exist are now serving as shelters.

77% of the gasoline stations on the island are operational

Less than 16% of the mobile phones and internet services have been established, however, they only work sporadically.

Since the hurricane, 38 people have died because they could not get adequate medical care.

According to recent statistics, 130,000 people have left Puerto Rico, to settle in Florida, New York City, Texas, California and Chicago. Some of them say that they plan to return when reconstruction is begun.

65% of the homes in Puerto Rico have been totally or partially destroyed.

More than 74% of the Churches on the island have been totally or partially destroyed: They represent, the Disciples of Christ, American Baptist, the Southern Baptist, Pentecostals, Presbyterian USA, United Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopal and the Roman Catholic Church.

The monetary damage caused in Puerto Rico by hurricanes Irma and Maria, have yet to be determined.

The coffee, pineapple and other cash crops were damaged to the extent that the land has been saturated and ruined by contamination from sewage water, fungus and mildew. It may take another ten years to recuperate these economic resources.

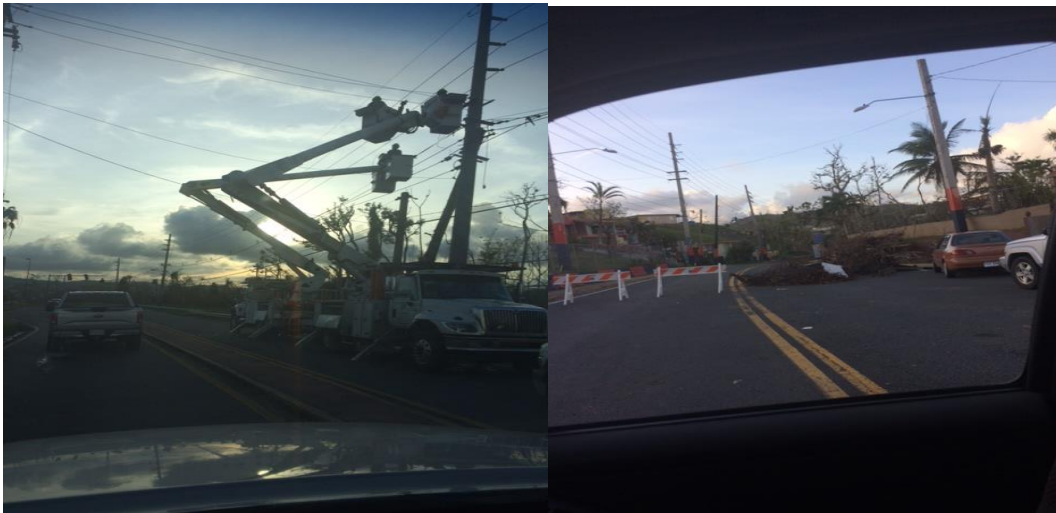
76% of the Puerto Rican work force is unemployed. As the situation worsens, medical officials are deeply concerned about the over population of mosquitoes. Some carry dengue fever, malaria, the zika virus, there is also respiratory diseases, and the flu epidemic.

Thanks for your prayers and support.

In Christ out Shepherd, Rev. Dr. Enrique Lebrón

From Lorraine De Armitt: you can donate online to UMCOR disaster relief. If you would like to add to this, information about your own denomination's relief network, please feel free to do that.

Here are some pictures



**Maunabo, Palo Seco UMC (South East)**



**Patillas, Guardarraya UMC (South East)**



**Villa Fontana UMC (North East)**

