



“HARTLAND CHURCHES UNITED IN SERVICE”

Lucia received a “call to action”,
Could she put together a crew?
To go to Puerto Rico,
There was still post hurricane work to do.

Lucia’s answer was an immediate, “we can do it”,
Without hesitation and with faithful belief.
That Hartland would respond in a big way,
To the need for hurricane relief.

The group that responded was amazing,
Ranging in age from 17-72.
With diverse skills and experiences,
It was a ready for anything crew.

After our first logistics meeting,
It was clear what to name our crew.
“Hartland Churches United in Service”
We started planning what we needed to do.

The community support was tremendous,
Fundraising was not a chore.
For so many we contacted,
Asked, “How can we do more”?

I don't have time to name individual supporters,
Prayers being answered every day.
There were many ways in which the community responded,
And propelled us on our way.

We started out after midnight,
Yes, it was clearly dark.
Although we did not know exactly what we faced,
We were all excited to embark.

We arrived in San Juan, Puerto Rico,
A shining, beautiful "orb".
But we didn't travel far outside that city,
Before devastation we began to absorb.

We arrived at our camp in Luquillo,
Electric lines down, power out.
Limited power provided by generator,
Its reliability left us with some doubt.

But that never dampened our spirits,
Our mission was for hurricane relief.
In fact our determination to overcome obstacles,
Served to strengthen our, "we can do it" belief.

Also, our age difference created bonding,
We became glued together as one.
Everyone had voice and a part to play,
Until each assigned task was done.

It didn't matter what each of us had for skills,
Because everyone did their part.
Whatever we each were asked to do,
We gave it full muscle and heart.

Our teamwork was, oh so important,
It gave us all pride when we finished each chore.
We far exceeded what they expected us to do,
And, quite honestly, pushed them to let us do more.

The spirits of the Puerto Rican people, joyful, humble,
No matter how dire their needs.
They always showed great gratitude,
For even our smallest of deeds.

There is still much to be accomplished,
There are many homes of which relief agencies are not even aware.
And if we don't forget what is needed,
There will be a next time for us to provide care.

So, to my fellow travelers,
And to each of you, one and all.
There is a part that each one of us can play,
In answering the following call.

Although, many times prayers for help are silent,
"Doing God's work" is an individual choice,
Let the world know what "united" we can accomplish,
Speak up, speak out, use your voice!!

JKL
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