



## New Year and New Teams

"What—there were two full tables!?" exclaimed Jon\* at the Servant's Team meeting. "Last year there were only like 4-5 of us at the first meeting, and 2 of them were Luke and Claire!" Let me back up.

In May we invited 7 students to dream big and trust God to form a student Servants Team (something none of them had ever seen before), both to grow as disciples and to take responsibility and ownership of the ministry. Three students, in faith, said yes (including sophomore Jon).

Also, after dialogue and testing the waters last semester, Ricky and his wife Alex, a local youth pastor couple, have joined our ministry team in a part-time capacity this year. Their long-term goal is to do university ministry in England with their denomination. They get to learn from us about ministering in a university setting, and we get to learn from them as well as build our team's capacity.

On August 12<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> (after last-minute delays!) the semester started at UPR-Rio Piedras. Through spiritual surveys and personally sharing the gospel, God has put us in touch with a variety of new students of varying backgrounds who are intrigued by the concept of studying the Bible with others. Even though some returning students (like Jon) couldn't be there last week, God is already multiplying the group—hence his surprise, above.

**Pray that God would root this community of students in His Word and His mission of being disciples and making disciples of Jesus!**

*Love,  
Luke & Sarah*



Above: Nav teammate Claire, student Julia\* (of the Servants Team), and local youth pastor Ricky just before initiating spiritual surveys with new students on the first day of class, Aug 20<sup>th</sup>  
Below: eating pizza before diving into the Bible at our 1<sup>st</sup> mtg Aug 25<sup>th</sup>



\* names changed for privacy.

## 😊 Cultural Moments 😊

**House Purchasing.** May 20th our offer was accepted (!!!) with a contract to close by July 14th. Due to delays, it was extended to Aug 15th. Due to more delays, it was extended again to Sept 10th. (Thankfully our landlady is flexible with extending our lease!) It's our understanding that we've done all we need to and are closer than ever (so we're told!) to getting a closing date. Maybe even this week. Or next week. Or in two weeks. Or later this month. In faith we're packing up non-essentials to be ready to move!

## Prayer Needs:

- For unity for both new teams—our local UPR ministry staff team, and our student Servants Team (Ps 133), and that God would use both teams to extend His kingdom in Puerto Rico.
- For the many new students we've been meeting to join our semester Bible study of "The Good Way" (Jer 6:16), and for those who don't know Christ to realize it (in this very Christianized culture) and to surrender to Him.
- For favor with the university as we try to register as a student organization this week. It could be simple... or not.
- Praise God for a house to purchase! Pray we could close and move this month (September) without further delays.