

## HURRICANE MARIA UPDATE

"He is jealous for me - Love's like a hurricane, and I am a tree -  
Bending beneath the weight of His wind and mercy - When all  
of a sudden, - I am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed by glory  
- And I realize just how beautiful you are and how great your  
affections are for me." - *How He Loves* by John Mark McMillan

Most Fridays, during our chapel song time, we have "Favorite  
Song Friday." Anyone present can choose a song from our DVD  
collection or online since we have some more reliable internet. It  
is 2017! We have technology!!

One Friday in August, one student handed his DVD choice to  
our director, Betsy Hoke. She asked, "Which song?" He replied,  
"NOW BOY LOVE"

He had chosen "How He Loves." (see lyrics above)

This little fellow has had some hard life experiences and with all  
of those, he craves LOVE. We are teaching him that expressing  
LOVE includes putting an arm around someone he cares for,  
saying "Good morning", putting down a handheld video game to  
talk to them. (It is 2017. He has technology.) Pray for him and his  
family, would you? Right now. Just do it. Thanks.

How He loves. That song includes the word ECLIPSE:

"When all of a sudden, I am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed  
by glory And I realize just how beautiful you are and how great  
your affections are for me."

We began classes on Tuesday 15 Aug 2017 with the VBS  
program "Galactic Starveyors." Our chapel was decorated as a  
planetarium, as if we were walking in the stars. This tied in to our  
TOPIC of the month in the classroom which was ECLIPSE and  
SOLAR SYSTEM.

THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD; THE SKIES  
PROCLAIM THE WORK OF HIS HANDS.  
PSALM 19:1



Thursday 17 Aug we had only one student as rains and flooding  
prevented the commuting students from leaving their homes.  
But we continued the following day and culminated the VBS  
series the following week.

Our first field trip was 21 August as we took our sun-viewing  
approved eyewear to a nearby park by a beach. In our cloudy  
rainforest area, we could not see the sun but by the beach, Wow!  
We joined hundreds of others and an astronomy club in viewing  
an 80% eclipse of the sun. Two of the students' families joined us  
at the park as we watched the eclipse happen. So cool! When we  
sang "How He Loves" on Aug 25, it had new meaning for us all.



Our solar system study ended on Sept 1 when the students made “meteorites/meatballs” for their families. That evening we had our regularly scheduled Deaf Fellowship and invited the students’ families for dinner beforehand. We also invited a local astronomy hobbyist to come with his telescope and show us astronomical things.

Sept 5, we were scheduled to begin a study of Deaf Culture and History. Instead, we stayed home and watched Hurricane Irma rip leaves from trees and roots from the soil. That little boy I mentioned before? The one you just prayed for? He was traumatized by Hurricane Irma. We visited his home on Sept 7 and had him for “school” on Sept 8. He learned to use a hand-powered small saw, a rake, a wheelbarrow, and helped to drill some holes. Sept 11, he returned for a half day and then for a staff outing, we went to the airport to pick up a hurricane relief worker, Dave Markle.

The school was without electricity for 12 days. We held classes and ran the generator. We didn’t have any cable signal to our modem, but we had cell phone service. We posted pictures on Facebook. We had communications. We received hurricane relief parcels. Who needs Internet to live? We can text and call. And get a wifi signal at Wendy’s to track Hurricane Maria.

Sept 12-15 were fairly normal school days. We talked about hurricane formation, our own experiences. The student homes had electricity restored. They brought frozen water to the school to share with the staff and guests. Sept 18 we discussed hurricane safety and what to expect with Hurricane Maria. It was a category 2. It seemed no worse than Irma had been.

On Wednesday, Sept 20, we stepped into a world best described with the words “catastrophic devastation.” But seeing Irma’s work prepared us a little bit for Maria’s.

***Psalm 18:11 He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him—the dark rain clouds of the sky.***

On Sept 18, we read Psalm 18:1-3, 7-19 in our chapel/prayer time. THAT passage described Hurricane Irma and our experience. After Hurricane Maria, one student said, “My house shook. I laid on my bed. I remembered, ‘God put me in a safe place because He delights in me’ then I pet my dog and slept more.”

**“HE BROUGHT ME OUT INTO A  
SPACIOUS PLACE; HE RESCUED ME  
BECAUSE HE DELIGHTED IN ME.”  
PSALM 18:19**

Praise God for His Word and the seeds that sprouted in Hurricane Maria in this young life. While others were stressed out and seeking solace, she found it in God.

#### **Our small damages include:**

The wooden wall to our storage/toy room blew off, the northeast chapel door was ripped open and the stage area of the chapel was flooded, the carport roof north side collapsed and broke only one windshield.

We were able to do temporary fixes on everything and with donations received will do more permanent fixes when supplies, workers, and circumstances permit.

We began classes again on Sept 16 and have had one or more students daily. We are working the 1980s way—pencil, paper, whiteboard, books. We miss the technology we were using in our lessons but are finding that there are equally important lessons to be learned from not having the luxuries of electricity and Internet.

One of the boys said, “After Hurricane Irma, it was fun to not have Internet. Now I’m bored so I ride my bicycle more and I’m teaching my friends sign language.” How cool is that?!

God in His omniscience sent Dave Markle, facilities manager at Calvary Bible Church in Hanover, PA to assist with cleanup and repairs after Hurricane Irma. Dave arrived Sept 11 and intended to stay until Sept 20. Dave brought a suitcase of supplies including batteries, candles, Twizzlers, Poptarts, and dehydrated ready-to-make meals—all of which have proven useful to our lives.

After clearing trees and preparing a return worklist, Dave helped to prepare for Hurricane Maria. He changed his flight to Saturday, 23 Sept and hunkered down to observe the mighty power of God as Maria pummeled our island. Dave finally left on Thursday, 28 Sept having guided us through hurricane cleanup and performing other repairs. He has a “future worklist” in hand and hopes to send teams to do welding, cement block work, and electrical repairs. If you would be interested in coming, please contact Dave at [dmarkle@cbc-hanover.org](mailto:dmarkle@cbc-hanover.org).

**“GOD KNOWS OUR NEEDS BEFORE WE DO.”**







## PRAY FOR CSCD

1

We are in need of long-term workers to teach and disciple children and adults for Christ

2

We are in need of extra grace during this part of our journey as so many are stressed and panicked by the storm's devastation.

3

Our students are in need of consistency in their educations—pray for their drivers' faithfulness and resilience on the obstacle courses we call roadways these days.

4

Pray for the relief workers and their safety as they work to clear roads, recreate the electrical, telephone, and Internet services, rebuild homes and restock stores.

5

Pray that God will be glorified and that Christians will represent their Saviour through this time of turmoil as well as after things settle down again.

*We from CSCD would like to thank Tammi Wolfe for typing up this newsletter and heading the mailing of it. Also Christie Hoeksema for setting up the design and layout. Special thanks to God for creating an international team of helpers to get this document into your hands and/or into your computers.*

## CONTINUING NEEDS

We have no idea how long we will be running on generator power and depending on battery and candlelight. Our stores are carrying canned foods, and those are bought up quickly as people are feeding families. If you would like to send a meal in a box, we would love to prepare it for school lunch. We don't have access to fresh produce in great quantity so be creative with what you send. Or, send healthy snacks, granola bars, trail mix, crackers, nonperishable foods items—canned spaghetti or pasta and a jar of sauce.

Today a parcel arrived and much of it was given to visitors who mentioned running short of food. What a blessing to receive a blessing and then pass it along to the next person. God's timing again proves His attention to detail.

## “GOD IS OUR REFUGE” PSALM 46:1

On Sept 4, God put missionaries, Jerry and Liz Harmon, on the school director's heart. Jerry and Liz's house had a metal-panelled roof. We were concerned it would blow away. On Sept 19/20, it did just that. The Harmons serve with BIMl and continue to reside in our former office suite. God's timing and planning are so remarkable in this orchestration of events. Someday we will prepare a blog entry to tell about it. Suffice to say, God provided above all we had humanly asked and thought.

The Harmons are in the process of home-hunting—checking out potential rentals and houses for sale. Contact them by mail at the school address Attn: Jerry Harmon for information of how you can help them in this time of need.



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## Box Tops for Education

This school year we received a total of \$981.10 from the Boxtop redemption program. Please tell your friends, church, co-workers, family - anyone - that the Deaf school in Puerto Rico can benefit from their efforts. Then, collect and send in your boxtops - Thank you! (our lifetime earnings are \$16,834.88 since 2012)



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## Check out World Mission to the Deaf!

<http://www.wmdcanada.org/>

CSCD Inc. is a non-profit ministry seeking to evangelize the Deaf for Christ. CSCD Inc. does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion or economic status. Students attending CSCD receive academic, social, vocational and Biblical instruction at a minimal cost to the families. All gifts and donations enter into the ministry general fund unless otherwise designated. CSCD Inc. has been declared as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization under USA Internal Revenue Codes.

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