

January 9, 2020

We are deeply grateful about you reaching out to find out how things are in Puerto Rico. Today I was able to communicate with several of our ministers to find out how their churches and homes are doing after a series of tremors and a 6.4 earthquake early Tuesday morning and then there was another 6.0 earthquake that followed at around 7:25 a.m. and then the aftershocks.

The Unity Church in Ponce, which is located in the city that has been affected the most by the earthquake, is in excellent condition. The senior minister, Rev. Elba Roman, told me today that everything seems to be okay. We are delighted about this and continue to bless everyone in that ministry.

Several cities and towns located on the south of the island are the ones that keep being affected by the constant tremors and aftershocks. Most people are sleeping outside of their homes because they are afraid and anxious due to a lot of the residences have already been deemed inhabitable or are in the process of falling down, and there's a lot of people already displaced. Also, there are several schools and factories that have been damaged.

As Unity leaders, we are in constant prayer for each other and keep in touch as much as possible.

The ministries in Aguada, Bayamón, Carolina, Caguas, Quebradillas, Dorado, and the Unity temple in San Juan, which is the one I serve, are in good condition.

I spoke to LUT Amalia Gonzalez in Guayama and, as of right now, we don't know if the building has suffered any damage. Some of the congregants and volunteers are relocating for their safety. Some live near the coast and have been advised to take every precaution and to consider any unforeseen situation.

The authorities are on high alert and are encouraging people to be prepared because it seems like it is not over yet, and we might need to take action if necessary.

Most of the ministries are without power, but we are hopeful that the situation will change soon. In the meanwhile, we continue to pray and to visualize that there is a greater good for all of us.

We deeply appreciate your prayers and support and, as always, we join you in prayer for Divine Order in our Puerto Rico, the surrounding islands, and for the rest of the world.

With our warmest regards of love and peace. Happy 2020!

Rev. Esther O. Mantilla