



M A Y - 2 0 1 8

SERVING THE LORD IN

Latin America

News from Rev Dr Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl Naumann



Spanish Teacher Comes to hear her student preach in Spanish

Jacqui has been teaching Spanish to LCMS missionaries at Berlitz Language School in the DR for many years, as part of the orientation process provided for all LAC missionaries before they deploy to their country of service.

In an effort to save money and expand opportunities for language learning, our regional leadership hired Jacqui to direct an in-house Language Institute. Along with two assistants - Sandra and Nellie - Jacqui also provides cultural learning experiences for our missionary families, including cultural excursions, arts and crafts, and a group for missionary children. Some of our Spanish-speaking school workers are also being trained to teach English in our Lutheran schools (a very desired aspect to any school here).

After many years of contact with LCMS workers here, and recently attending special occasion worship services, Jacqui requested that a catechism class would be arranged for her AND Sandra and Nellie! Now these women are also learning what we have come to communicate in this country in their native tongue. Praise God!

Brief update on people for whom we have asked your prayers: Claudia and Dan are still attending worship in Licey; Carlos and Giselle are progressing in confirmation classes; Odalis has not yet visited the church in Palmar, but we are still hopeful!

*‘... sí lo que no vemos esperamos,
con paciencia lo esperamos’ (Romans 8:25)*

Romans 8 is a favorite chapter in the Bible for many Christians. Perhaps one of the hardest verses in the chapter has to do with patience: *if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently (verse 25).*

Having completed our first year in this mission field on May 23, we see many things in our lives that took a whole year to achieve, one example being our ability to use the Spanish language more fluently on a daily basis. As we celebrated Pentecost in our mission churches, I have to admit to envying the experience of the apostles on that special day - to preach and teach and be understood by all - as a gift miraculously bestowed by the Holy Spirit. Yet, it is that same Spirit about whom St. Paul writes, in Romans 8:26-28, *‘Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And He who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose’.*

The local people here have a saying, *poco a poco*, which means little by little; step by step; gradually. God knows that I would like to see things grow and develop more quickly than they do, yet He has chosen to do something *with me* that He wants to see grow and develop - my patience, and trust in Him and His timing.

It’s a bit like our chickens. How many months have we been growing them? And still, no eggs. Patience. We might give up on looking for eggs each day, but thanks be to God, He never gives up on any of us!

**Thank you for accompanying us on this journey;
remembering the work here with your prayers and your
financial support.**

Pastor Jonathan

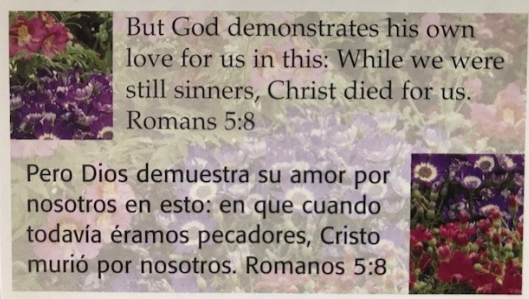
Dear friends in Christ,

All of us recognize that God works in mysterious ways. Sometimes this remark is accompanied by a second, that God allows many things to happen for the good of ourselves and His kingdom, which we might only see at a later time.

A couple of months ago I began to have pain in my right hip joint. When the pain continued to increase I went to see a doctor at a hospital clinic here in Santiago. That doctor referred me to a specialist, who asked me to take a series of tests to make sure nothing else was wrong with my body. One of the test results showed a problem with my gall bladder - a 1.5 inches long gallstone taking up one third of the gall bladder interior. So on May 10 my gall bladder was removed. Thankfully the surgery went well and the recovery process is also going well.

On one of my first visits to the clinic, another patient left the office about the same time that I did, and while walking toward the elevator together, **she started a conversation** with me! *"You have very good Spanish,"* she began; to which I replied, "And your English is very good. Where did you learn English?" On went the conversation: *"My husband and I lived in New York for a while."* "Did you move there for work or do you have family there?" *"We lived there for work, but we have come back home now to retire."* "This is a beautiful island to retire to! We have a son who lives in New York." *"Where?"* "He is the pastor at the Lutheran Church in Scarsdale." [Blank stare from her.] "It's in Westchester County, if you know where that is." [Big smile from her.] *"We lived in Westchester County!"*

The elevator arrived and this woman and her niece just managed to get into the crowded elevator. I decided to wait for the next one, but she motioned for me to get on as well, and maneuvered people to make room. We got on at the 5th floor and wanted to go down to 1, but it turned out that the elevator was going up. So again we started to chat in this crowded elevator, exchanging information about our respective jobs. As we reached the 9th floor, **she asked me**, *"Would you like to come to my house to visit me and my husband?"* "Yes, I would love to do that," I answered; "Where do you live?" By the time we got to the top floor and then all the way down to the 1st floor, we had exchanged names and phone numbers and said a cheerful goodbye.



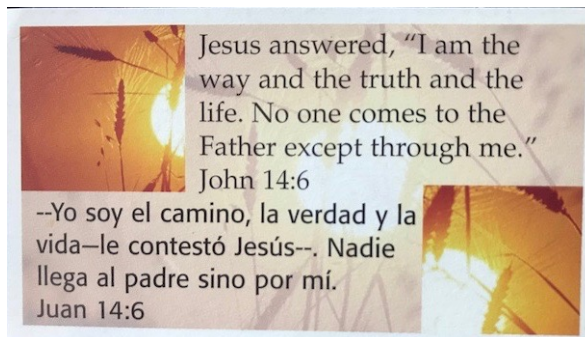
There is no ending to this story yet. About a week later I phoned Melanie's number and got a message saying the telephone number was out of service. In my several trips back to the clinic and adjoining hospital I thought it might be possible that we would see one another again, but so far it hasn't happened.

I always carry some little cards the size of business cards in my purse, on which a Bible verse is written in both Spanish and English. (*The Master's Cards* produced by LWML). I am hoping that Melanie hasn't lost the Bible verse card I gave her with my phone number, and praying that if it is God's will for me to witness to her, that she will see it and phone me. She started the conversation with me; she asked me to visit her home; Is there more to come?

In the meantime, we pray, and **thank you for adding your prayers to ours!**

love in Christ,

Deaconess Cheryl



Please include in your prayers

+Thanksgiving for successful gall bladder removal for Deaconess Cheryl and her continued recovery. +For those missionaries in the LAC region who are moving to a different house or a different area of service. +For people who hear God's Word taught and preached, that the Holy Spirit would plant and grow faith in them. +That God will bless new opportunities open to the LCMS in the LAC mission field by providing more missionaries to carry out the work.

Tax-deductible gifts to support the work of Jonathan & Cheryl Naumann can be given:

- + **Online at www.lcms.org/jonathan.naumann**
- + **By phoning the LCMS donor care line: 888-930-4438**
- + **By mailing checks to The LCMS, PO Box 66861, Saint Louis, MO 63166-6861 with "Jonathan Naumann - Latin America" on the check memo line**