

# PAUL FLO



April | 2018 | International Fellowship

## The *Only* Theology

To summarize *the theology of the cross* - the theme of our symposium - perhaps **1 Corinthians 1:21-24** is most helpful:

*For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

The cross is silly and offensive to the world, but in reality, God does His most godly acts through that very thing - HE SAVES YOU AND ME!

## *International Fellowship*



A warm Caribbean greeting to all from the Dominican! I hope some nice spring weather has *finally* begun reaching you up north!

It's hard to believe that I'm down to *exactly* 6 weeks before heading back to the States! I've enjoyed seeing where all of my class mates have received their first pastoral calls this last week, and it has certainly put my mind back on "seminary things." I'm very thankful for the two years I've had to grow, ask questions, connect, teach, be taught, and in summary, *be formed* during my vicarage here in the Dominican. And so, once again, I thank God for all of you who have made it possible for me to be here and serve in our Lord's Church!

## Prayer Requests

- (1) For a productive, safe, and enjoyable last six weeks for me here in the Dominican Republic.
- (2) For Isaac Machado, seminary student from Venezuela, who will be following me as the Vicar in Santo Domingo.
- (3) A prayer of thanksgiving for the success of our first theological symposium at our seminary.
- (4) For the continued healing of Pastor Willy, that he might return to his pastoral duties of delivering God's gifts through the preaching of the Word and administering of the Sacraments.
- (5) That God would provide another permanent missionary pastor here in Santo Domingo.

The month of April has flown by with a bit more speed than usual! In the photo on the first page, you get a peak at our very first theological symposium at our seminary. The topic was "The Theology of the Cross" in celebration of the 500th year anniversary of Luther's *Heidelberg Disputation*. The entire group was about 50 people, including 30 pastors and church leaders from all parts of Latin America. It was a tremendous blessing to get to know so many brothers in the faith, and be mutually fed in a rigorous study of God's Word. It's fun to think of reconnecting with many of these pastors in the future after receiving my first call as pastor in just about a year. I have no doubt that I'll be staying connected to the Lutheran Church in Latin America.



Here are a couple more photos in the same room of the seminary. Here, we are continuing along with our monthly pre-seminary study. Each month, we dig into one book of the Bible, summarize the key events, and connect it to the Small Catechism and our daily lives. **Elvis Carera**, one of our seminary students from Lima, Peru, was leading the study. He did a wonderful job! Since my trip from the Capital with **Jerry, Orlando, and Miguel** is about 3 hours, we stayed in the guest rooms at the seminary along with **Viktor**. We always have a good time staying up late, raiding the kitchen for a late snack, and having good chats on the roof under the stars of *Palmar Arriba*. In the mornings, the guys like to play basketball while I enjoy a hot cup of coffee and book. I'll sure miss these guys! **Enjoy some photos below!**



Can you see the number on the cake? We celebrated *Don Tineo's 99th birthday!* Wow!



A gift from our church to the newest congregation in *Licey*.



Dominoes is definitely the most popular board game here in the DR, but here are some chess players deep in thought in the Colonial Zone of Santo Domingo.

A nice Thursday night Bible Study - we've been finishing a study on Holy Week, now we're moving on to something new.





Pastor Sergio Maita from Venezuela with some of the members of our newest church in Lacey, a suburb of Santiago.

I always love some company down in the Capital! Here we have Nefta, Vania, Marcelo, and Guillermo (left to right), teaching me some Latin magic in the kitchen (or...just spaghetti)



And...one more birthday celebration. This time with some incredible Argentinian grilling. Thanks Pastor Sergio Fritzler, and happy birthday once again!

**That's it for April! Thanks to all of you for your continued support through your thoughts, prayers, and gifts! ...till next month...**

**Vicar Paul Flo**