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News from the Rickman Family serving in Latin America

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## Letters from Latin America

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we return to serve in Panama, we observe a church that is so familiar, yet so different from the one we left a decade ago. It breaks our hearts to learn of churches and missions that have closed and others with very few members. The Lutheran Church here in Panama is definitely facing some challenges. It can be easy to get discouraged. Yet at the same time, we look around and see all the opportunities and all the faithful leaders and members that have continued to serve the church in spite of the difficulties. We can see how God has sustained the church. What a joy it has been to reconnect with old friends and begin building relationships with new ones.



Panama



Colombia



Cuba



Mexico

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In about a week, the FORO will be meeting here in Panama to discuss how we can best work together to serve the needs of the churches here. We are looking forward to hearing more about how God has been working through these relationships to assist the Lutheran Church of Panama. The needs are great and we look forward to seeing how God can work through us to serve His church, as we have already begun assisting with various ministries here.



## Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- ...for health and safety for our family as we serve in Latin America.
- ...pray that the FORO will support and enhance the ministry here in Panama.
- ...for local leaders in la IELPA and for more leaders to be raised up.
- ...for the strengthening of our partners.
- ...thanks for the grace and eternal promises from the one who gives us all good things.
- ...thanks for the opportunities to serve His people in Latin America.
- ...thanks for all who make it possible for us to serve.

There are many opportunities to serve. Check out the current list and download an application at [www.lcms.org/service](http://www.lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

**\*CAUTION: Please DO NOT FORWARD without permission or POST anywhere on the internet. Thank you!**

## Rickman Family Update

Over the past year, Zoe has been asking for a pet. Of course, with all the travels over the past year, it wasn't possible to get her one. Since coming to Panama, however, God has been answering her prayers with all kinds of interesting "pets." Upon moving into our new apartment, we were unexpectedly greeted with a huge frog in our kitchen cabinets! Papa quickly jumped into action and caught it in a plastic container. Our little ones named him Fred and were allowed to keep him until bedtime when he was released back into the jungle. A few days later, Nathaniel came running in to Mama and Papa scared of the dinosaur! "Playing"



Nathaniel's Dinosaur, Iggy.

along, Mama went with him to hunt for this "dinosaur" assuming it was living in a little three-year-old imagination. Well, when this little one declared, "No, Mama—real, one!" we shouldn't have been surprised to find a huge three-foot-long iguana directly on the other side of our second-floor bedroom window! It sure did look like a dinosaur! We'll keep him outside!

*Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!*

*2 Corinthians 9:15*

We thank all of you for partnering with us and making it possible for us to share the most important message with those in Latin America! We are thankful for each of you walking alongside us!

In Christ <>,

*Arthur and Eva,*

*Bethany, Zoe, Noah, Nathaniel and Mary Anna*



To support the work of the Rickman Family, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861.

ALSO, you can send your gift to:

Mission Central at 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, Iowa 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of the Rickman Family." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [www.lcms.org/rickman](http://www.lcms.org/rickman).