

missionaryMAC

News from Erin Mackenzie, serving the Lord in the Dominican Republic (DR) | missionaryMAC.blogspot.com

Carnaval is an annual observance around the Caribbean; the DR holds its rousing celebrations every Sunday in February. Traditions run deep, particularly in the elaborate costumes:

1. Lechón—A devil with a mask resembling a pig snout
2. Nicolás Den Den—a bear that, legend has it, came to Santiago with the circus and stayed behind with its trainer
3. Indio—Indigenous inhabitant of the island
4. La muerte en yipe—a walking skeleton, essentially
5. Se me muere Rebeca—a poor, desperate mother mourning the unfortunate death of the doll (Rebeca) she carries
6. Juan Antonio Alix—An eccentric, yet popular, poet
7. Roba la gallina—a rotund woman notorious for stealing her neighbor's chickens and hiding them under her skirt.



Lechón dancers at the family friendly Carnaval put on by Centro Leon, Santiago's art & cultural center.

(If you received a hard copy of this and would like to help me be green and save on postage, please send an email to erin.mackenzie@lcms.org.)

Do you want to be a model for Jesus?

Not a question the local hardware store worker likely gets asked every day, and yet Odalis's white-robed, halo-topped likeness has been preserved for posterity in the Mercy Center thanks to liturgical artist Kelly Schumacher.

Kelly spent the month of January in the DR as a self-proclaimed "art missionary." Between teaching students at Concordia Lutheran School in Palmar Arriba and Concordia the Reformer Seminary about liturgical art, leading an activity for missionary kids, and hosting a watercolor-themed ladies' night, Kelly worked furiously to complete a 40" x 30" commissioned work. Typically, paintings take her up to a year to complete; a matter of weeks is a small miracle!



Her process began by photographing "Jesus" with the children—from the school, Good Shepherd Lutheran Homes group home, and neighborhood. She then used a grid system to transfer the photo to canvas, added a mountainous background to mirror the local landscape, and finished it off with a sprinkling of glitter before applying a sealant.

Rightfully, the only walls my likeness adorns are those in my parents' family room. Nonetheless, I still strive to be a model for Jesus—to become ever more like my Savior as I live out my missionary calling. As Paul urges, "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Kelly's painting was dedicated on Sunday, January 27. For more information about her work, visit her website, www.agnusdeiarts.com.





Praises and Petitions

1. Thanksgiving for the faithful service of Natalie, whose term as a GEO missionary came to a close earlier this month.
2. Thanksgiving for the birth of Lars to missionary pastor David and wife Jenny on 2/14, and his rebirth as a child of God on 2/17!
3. For missionary pastor James and wife Deac. Christel as they transition to Ponce, PR on 2/28.
4. For discernment for three young ladies who received solemn appointments to serve in the LAC region at the 2/1 Board for International Mission meeting, as they prayerfully deliberate.
5. For the missionaries, missionary kids, and others affected by the numerous illness outbreaks reported around the region.

Girl Power!

Concordia the Reformer Seminary (CMSCR) trains up men to be shepherds, teachers, and evangelists through both residential and distance programs. Not to be forgotten, though, are the *more than 100 women* currently studying for the role of Deaconess in five Latin American countries.

Rev. Sergio Maita, director of Deaconess formation, is considered an adjunct member of the CMSCR faculty. He is aided by missionary Deaconesses around the region, who serve as professors and mentors. The curriculum consists of two in-person intensives and one online course per year for five years, beginning with the foundational “Diaconal Identity.”



Missionary Danelle teaching Diaconal Identity at Iglesia Luterana Cordero de Dios.

Join me in lifting up these ladies as they prepare to serve in their churches and communities!



Far L, top: Dusk over Palmar Arriba.

Far L, bottom: I ♥ MONTEGO BAY!

L: I found another heart (like the one at Aeropuerto Internacional Cibao) at City Hall.



Quote of the Month!

Gloria enim Dei vivens homo, vita autem hominis visio Dei. (For the glory of God is a living man; and the life of man consists in beholding God.)

—Irenaeus

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