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July  
2019

News from the Rickman Family serving in Latin America

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## Letters from Latin America

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Luke 10:2 (ESV)



Above: Diaconess Students in Panama



Panama



Colombia



Mexico

...and other areas of Latin America and the Caribbean

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Diaconal formation continues to expand throughout Latin America as the country of Panama adds a dozen more ladies to the 100+ women already studying to serve as deaconesses in the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Venezuela, and Guatemala. Diaconess Danelle Putnam helped launch the program in Panama on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The ladies came from two congregations in two parts of the country. Due to travel challenges, the remainder of the course on Diaconal Identity was taught at each congregation on Sundays after church. Pastor Brian Gauthier taught the ladies at Loma Cova, where several of the ladies Eva trained nearly a decade ago are still serving. We had the opportunity to finish teaching the ladies at the congregation in Sora, almost two hours away. Courses will continue as the ladies finish their studies over the next three years and gain more experience serving the churches of Panama.



## Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- ...for health and safety for our family, especially for Bethany as she suffers from severe eczema made worse by the climate and mold here in Panama.
- ...for local leaders in la IELPA and for more leaders to be raised up.
- ...thanks for the ladies studying to be deaconesses in Panama and throughout Latin America.
- ...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."

## Ministry Update Cont.

It is such a blessing to witness how these women will go forth to serve their congregations and communities with God's love and mercy. Please pray for these ladies as they study and serve our Lord and His people in Panama and join us in giving thanks for these workers in God's harvest field.

Please also continue to pray for the formation of pastors in Panama. Currently, there are not any men in Panama studying to be pastors, but there are still several vacant congregations. Please pray for pastors from Panama or other parts of Latin America to fill these vacancies.

## Family Update

We celebrated two more birthdays in July with Nathaniel turning 4 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Zoe turning 9 on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for our little ones as we prepare for a new school year, continuing to "catch-up" due to all the transitions.

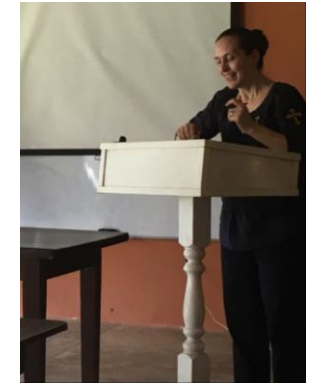
*Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!  
2 Corinthians 9:15*

We are so thankful for all your prayers and for partnering with us in sharing the most important message with those in Latin America! We are thankful for each of you walking alongside us! Thank you for supporting God's work in Latin America.

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).