

S U M M E R - 2 0 1 9



SERVING THE LORD IN

Latin America

News from Rev Dr Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl Naumann



Innovation in Missions!

A close-up view of the internet dish that is positioned on the top of our roof. This sends a signal to the Seminary and Mercy Center, to which there is a clear view, seven miles away as the crow flies!

“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!” (Romans 11:33)

Here in the Dominican Republic, just as in North America or other parts of the world, we need to be proactive and creative about overcoming obstacles that stand in the way of God's work in our LCMS mission congregations, schools, and mercy houses.

Due to the inability to wire electricity from the street to the building that houses the Seminary and Mercy Center, and Concordia Lutheran Church and School, solar panels were installed on the seminary roof. Thanks to this gift of technology from project donors there are lights and fans in this three-story building - and well as a way to pump water into the building.

It also takes electricity to have internet. But what happens when no fiber optic internet cable can be laid to the Seminary, which needs internet for its library and on-line classes, for student and faculty use of the internet for research, and so forth? Our regional business manager worked with the internet provider who also provides the mission's phone service, to create a unique solution!

Attached to a tall tower on the rooftop of the "triplex" house we live in is a special dish that transmits internet capability to a receiver in Palmar Arriba, providing that important educational tool! Yes - we work with an amazing team of missionaries!

There were some significant changes in our extended family in July: my recently widowed mother moved into an assisted living apartment in Port Charlotte, FL, and we welcomed our 19th grandchild, Zara. Perhaps one of the most challenging things about being missionaries is the distance between us and beloved family and friends. Yet God is faithful and hears our prayers for those that we are unable to be with physically while in the field. **Thank you for your prayers for missionaries, and also for your financial support, which makes it possible for us to serve here!** *Pastor Jonathan*

If you receive these newsletters in the mail, but have an email address to which they could be sent, please let us know. We are happy to send them to you in the mail, but would like to save postage in cases where that is possible.



Left: Solar panels on seminary roof. Above: View from our house - blue circle showing location of the seminary. Right: Internet dish on roof of our house, sending internet signal to Concordia the Reformer Seminary and Mercy Center.

2019 LAC REGIONAL MISSIONARY CONFERENCE



Pastor Jonathan's congregation of missionary families who serve in the Latin America Caribbean region - during the annual missionary conference where we participate in continued education, Bible study and worship, to strengthen our capabilities as missionaries.

Dear friends in Christ,

We intend to send you a newsletter every month, but occasionally we have a very busy spell - so this letter will cover the whole summer. We are also adding a third page to this one newsletter, primarily of photos, since there are many to share!

Several of you have asked how we are, and so I would like to start by reporting that we are both in very good health, thanks be to God. During and after the annual missionary conference, many of our missionaries or their family members were ill with something that resembled different kinds of flu. We would ask you to pray for continued health for us and our team. Our current challenges include difficult working conditions when there is no electricity. Without electricity there is also no water. Some of our missionary houses have "inversers" which provide backup electricity, however, yesterday, in at least two homes, the backups were not functioning. Our triplex house does not have an inverter (yet!), but we hope to get one in the near future. Our prayer requests on page three include asking God for (moderate) rains for the DR. This is needed for water and for the production of hydroelectric power for electricity.

I am still developing a relationship with Rachel, whom I met at the printing store. She is open to visiting church with me one Sunday, but we aren't there yet. Odalis is still interested in Christianity, but has not yet fully embraced the truths of the Bible. He is a fluent reader and when reading articles on the internet, he is not always being able to discern truth from fiction. For some who are new to the internet, they have the mistaken impression that everything they read is true. So there are questions about the book of Revelation relating to aliens from outer space, and so forth.

As one of my responsibilities is the coordination of Mercy Center educational activities and conferences in the Latin America Caribbean region, I have been delighted by the feedback to several events that took place in June, July, and August. Conferences held in Mexico, the Cayman Islands, and Argentina provided our missionaries and congregations, and also LCMS partner churches, with training in the areas of Disaster Response, Christian Reconciliation, and/or Evangelism (using the new *Everyone His Witness* materials recently produced by the LCMS).

We give thanks to God for the opportunity to work in this field. **Thank you also to all of you for your encouragement and your support in both prayers and gifts to our mission fund!**

Deaconess Cheryl



Pastor Brandon Martin teaching "Go and Be Reconciled" (Ambassadors of Reconciliation) at a Mercy Center conference in Mexico.



Two photos from the *Every One His Witness* Mercy Center Conference in Grand Cayman. Pastor Charles St-Onge, who led the course, is shown above leading participants in prayer.



If you use
FaceBook please
visit our home page:
"Naumanns in
Latin America"





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Photo 1 was taken last week during Pastor Jonathan's first confirmation class for missionary children this year. **Photos 2, 3, & 4** show the training given to church members and workers at Casa Bethesda in Santiago, Chile, when we place a defibrillator there. **Photo 5** shows some of the 450 individuals at an Argentina Lutheran ladies gathering, who received several hours of instruction about disaster response,(see April 2019 newsletter). At the time of the conference there was severe flooding in Argentina, giving Pastor Christian Rautenberg the opportunity to prepare some local people for action. **Photos 6 & 7** are the volunteer workers; one looking at devotions to be distributed with material aid; **Photos 8 & 9** record the flooding and people waiting for assistance.

Please include in your prayers...

+ That the Holy Spirit would bring Odalis to faith in Jesus; that his faith would grow as he attends worship; and that Rachel will be blessed through conversation with Cheryl and will desire to hear about what Jesus can do for her through His death and resurrection. + Thanksgiving for the learning that took place at recent Mercy Center conferences centered on Christian Reconciliation, Evangelism or Disaster Response readiness, in Mexico, Argentina, Chile, and the Cayman Islands. + That God would bless missionaries with good health, courage, and the ability to remember that the joy of the Lord is our strength. + Thanksgiving for the birth of our granddaughter, Zara Shanthi Naumann, born to Persy & Nigel Naumann on July 25. + That God would grant needed rainfall for Island of Hispaniola, which includes two countries - the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

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**