

PANAMÁ NEWS

NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY

Did you know?

That Panamá was the first country outside the United States in which Coca Cola was sold? Coca Cola was first sold in Panamá in 1906.

Ezra's Corner



At school I made a giant volcano out of sand with some of my classmates. We love playing outside at school for recess. I pretend that I am a dragon flying all over the playground. This past week I had to go to the doctor's office for my check-up. But don't worry! I was really brave when I got my shots. When I got home, I told Aviva how brave I was so that she does not have to be scared to get shots either. Oh! And the other day there was a boa on our window!

"We are beggars"

Somos mendigos is the Spanish for the phrase famously found written on a piece of paper by Martin Luther after his death. "We are beggars" is the translation. The prophet Isaiah rightly diagnoses our nature as beggars. "We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you..." (Isaiah 64.6-7). Our sinfulness is so pervasive that we do not seek the Lord. In fact, we are spiritually dead. Before God then, we are merely beggars because we literally have nothing to offer the Lord, nor trade. As beggars we approach the Lord with only one phrase on our lips, "Lord, have mercy."



And He does have mercy. Beyond logic and reason the Lord gives His only begotten Son, Jesus over to death to be merciful to us. St. Paul writes, "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5.21). Jesus becomes a beggar, taking upon himself your sins and mine. He becomes unclean. He fades like a leaf as our iniquities take him away. He calls upon the Lord in the hour of his anguish and the Lord does not answer him. Jesus dies a beggar. However, in his death and by his blood you are then clothed in Christ. His righteousness is laid upon you like a garment. Because of Jesus's obedience, suffering, death, and resurrection, you become royalty, heirs and co-heirs with Jesus.

And this is yours not bought with gold or silver nor merited with good behavior. It is yours by faith and faith alone which is a gift created by the Holy Spirit. *Somos mendigos*, grammatically, is the present tense. We *are/remain* beggars before God, but because of Jesus, we beg in faith, hope and joy knowing that the Lord hears and responds. "I forgive you all of your sins," "Take and eat" "Take and drink" "The Lord bless..." We are beggars because we know that all good things come from the Lord's merciful hands. "We are beggars" Thanks be to God for his mercy and forgiveness.



PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVING

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Clari (a deaconess student) whose 2 month old sister died suddenly.
- Permit issues for the roof project in Balboa.
- Healing and good health for our household.
- Healing for Pastor Patricio.
- That the Gospel be preached throughout Panamá.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- A good start to the next deaconess course being offered in Panamá.
- The Lord's faithfulness and daily mercies.



Photographs from IELPA's Reformation celebration Sunday October 6



To support the LCMS through the work of Brian & Amanda Gauthier, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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