

S E P T E M B E R - 2 0 1 9



SERVING THE LORD IN

# Latin America

News from Rev Dr Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl Naumann



## Laborers for the Harvest!

*Dominican Republic pastors and missionaries, as well as guest pastors attending the DR FORO, prepare to process into Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Licey, DR, on the afternoon of Sunday September 22, 2019. About 200 people attended the special Divine Service, which included the Ordination of Pastor Yban Navarro, our third Dominican Pastor!*



Above: Pastor Fritz shares a Scripture passage during the ordination of Pastor Navarro. Pastor Jonathan is also pictured, second from the right. Our three Dominican pastors include Pastor Willy Gaspar (Friends of Christ Lutheran Church, Las Americas); Pastor Idjon Fritz (Concordia Lutheran Church & School, Palmar Arriba); and Pastor Yban Navarro (Lamb of God Lutheran Church & School, Licey).

*“Ciertamente, es mucha la mies, pero son pocos los segadores. Por tanto, pidan al Señor de la mies que unvie segadores a cosechar la mies.”*

Evangelists Matthew and Luke both record Jesus's plea: *The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.* (Matt. 9:37-38 & Luke 10:2)

There is no doubt that "fields are white and harvest waiting" in the DR - making an occasion like the ordination of our third Dominican pastor a few weeks ago very sweet indeed. Yes, our immediate task and joy is to bring the saving message of the Gospel to the general population here. At the same time, as I teach at the seminary, I am always aware of the more longterm goal: to prepare indigenous pastors to step in to the pulpits where missionaries were once the only ones available to organize and carry out the planting, watering and reaping. What can be more satisfying than to know that some day your work will be carried on by those who come after you; whom you have helped prepare for the task? What a privilege for me AND FOR YOU to be part of this process that has been going on since the time that Jesus gave the "Great Commission" to His disciples.

Pastor Navarro will serve together with missionary Pastor Sergio Fritzler (also a seminary professor who hails from Argentina). Together they will plant new churches in the cities of Mocha and Villa Dura, as well as serving Lamb of God in Licey.

A new academic year is up and running at the seminary, and there are seven eager youngsters in a confirmation class that I teach for the children of LCMS missionaries. God has blessed the Latin America Caribbean (LAC) region with six new missionaries and two individuals who are transitioning from two-year commitments to occupying career positions. So these eight individuals are now part of the far-flung "missionary congregation" I serve in my capacity as Chaplain to LCMS missionaries and families in the DR, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, Peru, Panama, Jamaica, Mexico, Spain, Chile and Belize!

**Wherever you happen to be, may God bless your witness to His saving grace, just as through your donations and prayers you have been a blessing to us!**

*Pastor Jonathan*

Dear friends in Christ,

The mission in Pueblo Nuevo had an opportunity to demonstrate the love and mercy of Christ when three families lost their homes due to an electrical fire. Located across the street from our former mission church site (marked on



the photo), two of the homes that were destroyed belonged to communicant members of the Pueblo Nuevo mission congregation and the third to active participants in the mission. One family also lost their livelihood, an open-air patio restaurant that was often used for weekly Bible classes. The upper right photo shows the families and their friends together for a meal in the new church site only a few blocks away. We were so delighted to see the outpouring of love from all of the Pueblo Nuevo people and other mission congregations, including members who are themselves very poor in terms of material possessions, though rich in the love and grace of our Lord.

There have been several days of rain over the last couple of weeks, easing the general water situation. The government is still rationing the water flow to various neighborhoods on different days or allowing it to be on for only a couple of hours each day when supplies are low. Hopefully the island will continue to get more moderate rain.

Some of you may recall reading in our newsletters about Claudia and Dan, a couple that we met in a grocery store who subsequently came to church, took instruction classes at the mission in Licey and were confirmed seven months ago. Please pray for these two individuals who have suffered some significant marriage problems since that time. These realities are sad no matter where they happen, but all the more so when the individuals have only recently made a public confession of their faith in Jesus Christ. We pray that they can learn to forgive and will continue to listen to God's Word and be renewed and strengthened in their faith in Him.

Finishing on a more positive note - the two day "Every One His Witness" Mercy Center workshop in Santiago, Chile, was very well received by the 41 participants. It's such a pleasure for me to coordinate these events, especially when we see and we hear that the church is impacted in a positive way as people are more confident about sharing their faith. **Thank you** for your part in making it possible for us to be here to do this joyful work!

In Christ, *Deaconess Cheryl*



**Above:** Pastor Roberto Weber teaches "Every One His Witness" in Santiago, Chile.  
**Far left:** a DR stop sign: (Pare means stop) and **left:** Coca Cola sign where there might normally be a stop sign. This is what we refer to as comic relief!

*Please include in your prayers*

- + Thanksgiving for the ordination and installation of Pastor Yban Navarro. Please remember him, and his wife Marta and two daughters, as they transition to his first call;
- + That God would restore all missionaries to health, especially those who have recently suffered from dengue and other viruses; + That God will bless the Mercy Center conference in Spain in October; + That God will bless this new academic year for the seminary and for our many Lutheran schools in the LAC region.
- + That God will give our church members an increased desire to share the Gospel, whether in the US or abroad.

**Tax-deductible gifts to support the work of Jonathan & Cheryl Naumann can be given:**

- + **Online at [www.lcms.org/jonathan.naumann](http://www.lcms.org/jonathan.naumann)**
- + **By phoning the LCMS donor care line: 888-930-4438**
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