



My arrival at the airport in Santiago, Dominican Republic on September 29.

DOMINICAN FACTS

- Duarte Peak is the highest mountain in the Caribbean, rising to 10,417 feet!
- Duarte Peak is located in San Juan, the province next to Santiago.
- Lake Enriquillo is the lowest point in the Dominican Republic, only 53 miles from Duarte Peak and is 150 feet below sea level.

[www.britannica.com/place/
Dominican-Republic](http://www.britannica.com/place/Dominican-Republic)

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Journey to Santiago



Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) missionaries at orientation in St. Louis. Dominican Republic (DR) and Puerto Rico (PR) From Left to Right: Tirzah Krey (DR), Cindy Pine (DR), me, Courtney Zalmonoff (DR), Jamielyn Tinkey (DR), Ashely Lehr (PR), Stephanie Wilde (PR), James Krey (PR).

Just over a week ago, I arrived in my new home, Santiago! The weeks leading up to my departure from the US were quite busy. The Lord provided me with opportunities to catch up with people I had not seen for a long time. More importantly, He showed me how my support network is much larger than the financial supporters. This support network includes the many people who have opened their homes to me over the past four months while visiting their towns for support raising, numerous airport runs, my neighbor who waited at her house two days for my visa to arrive, my friend who is handling the USPS mailing of this newsletter, and all the support and encouragement from family and friends given through words and listening ears. Thank you to all!

Now that I am in the Dominican Republic, what do my days look like? For the first two to four months, I am in language and culture orientation. I am doing this along with the other new LAC missionaries, Cindy, Courtney, and Stephanie. I feel fortunate that this happens to take place in Santiago, where I will be living through the end of my internship. I have daily Spanish lessons in the morning. In the afternoon we have various workshops and cultural excursions to learn more about the mission and how to live in Latin America. During my first full day in the country, I was able to exchange US dollars for Dominican pesos and go to the store to buy some food. I have had the opportunity to get to know the other missionaries living in Santiago, as many have invited me over to dinner or taken me on excursions. On Sunday, I attended church in Pueblo Nuevo, and hope to make it to all three congregations in Santiago before I finish field orientation.



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Cows behind my apartment in Santiago.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Patience and understanding as I learn Spanish and acclimate to a new culture
- Guidance for me, Cindy, Courtney, and Stephanie as we go through in-field orientation

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- Safe travels throughout the end of support raising, orientation and my safe arrival in Santiago, Dominican Republic
- The learning and preparations for the move abroad that occurred during orientation in St. Louis

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The many congregations and individuals who pray for me, encourage and support me.

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."



In September, I gave presentations in Richmond, VA, Glen Burnie, MD, Upper Marlboro, MD, Glen Arm, MD, and Lexington Park, MD. One highlight was visiting St. Paul's Lutheran School in Glen Burnie, where I attended school through 8th grade. I had the joy of visiting each classroom to talk about life in the Dominican Republic and being a missionary. My last presentation was to the Lutheran Women in Mission of the DCMarVA Zone of the Chesapeake District. For those of you who have heard my presentation, you know how special the women of the LWML are to me and the Church.

My last week in the US was spent in St. Louis at new missionary orientation. My missionary class from May joined the August missionary class to learn how to prepare for moving to another country. We also attended DOXOLOGY where we learned how to care for ourselves and others emotionally, physically, and spiritually while serving in the Church. It was good to touch base in person with our support team in St. Louis and other new international missionaries.



4th Grade Classroom Visit at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Glen Burnie, MD

I especially ask for your prayers as I go through this period of many transitions and much learning while navigating the nuances of living in another country.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? –Psalm 27:1

*Joyfully Serving in Christ, Kate Phillips
Deaconess Intern*



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Please include "Phillips-Dominican Republic Support" on the memo line of your check.