

SERVING THE LORD IN

# THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

NEWS FROM MISSIONARY COURTNEY ZALMANOFF



October 2019

If you have a received a paper copy of this and would like to help me save paper, please email me at [courtney.zalmanoff@lcms.org](mailto:courtney.zalmanoff@lcms.org). Thank you!



Above: The 4<sup>th</sup> grade class from Immanuel Lutheran School-Olivette. I'm holding their class pet per their request: a bearded dragon named Jeff!

Below: The LAC missionary team present at Week 2 of orientation! The May and August orientation classes were able to finally meet and share experiences and excitement for arrival to the field!



## *A refreshed soul*

Greetings in Christ from the Dominican Republic! What a blessing it is to share with you that I have deployed to the mission field! After only four months of network building, God has provided all my financial needs to get to the field. Although it was sometimes a challenge, seeing my network grow and establishing new relationships has been so rewarding. I am so grateful for all my mission partners thus far and I continue to keep you in my prayers.

The month of September was the busiest yet in my new vocation. While support raising efforts were in full swing, I also received my deployment green light at the end of August. This was followed by many more preparations and conversations to get everything ready for deployment. While I was running here and there getting materials needed, giving presentations at churches and schools, and talking with the team on the field, I continuously felt God's presence in my endeavors. I have never been more certain that this is the next step for my life and the exact place where God is calling me to be. I have been so energized by learning new things every day about the place I am living and working for the coming years. The phrase I am trying to live by is pray, praise, and give thanks. I can't wait to experience "real life" in my new home!

The last week of September was spent in St. Louis, MO for the second week of new missionary orientation. This week focused more on preparing for the field and overall well-being. Not only was I able to reconnect and share stories with the new missionaries from my class in May, but we were also joined by the new missionary class who began their network building efforts in August. This week was filled with joy and gratitude as we worshipped and prayed while learning about the provision God has in store for each of us on the field.



We focused on the calling that each of us have received and the truth that we confess together as His church around the world. Physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being were the main topics as we participated in a missionary retreat hosted by DOXOLOGY during the second half of the week. The time spent with fellow missionaries heading to all parts of the world is something I will always treasure. I was again and again so filled with joy and excitement during this week; I cannot wait to get started on my work in the field! I just wish we could all be in the same place again someday! As my soul was refreshed last week, I continue to look to the Lord and for His provision. Psalm 23 reminds me to stay strong in the Lord and He will continue to refresh my soul, even in the difficult times.

I have been in the field for a few days now, and everything has begun well. After a slight delay in getting to the Dominican Republic, I praise God for safe travels not only for me, but also for Kate and Stephanie who have just deployed with me. We will be going through on field orientation for at least the coming month as we adjust to our new home in the Dominican (and soon Puerto Rico for Stephanie). I look forward to sharing with you all next month how the first few weeks go and the exciting new things I am learning about the Lord's work here in Latin America. Until next time!



The whole team present at Week 2 of orientation! In all there were about 19 new missionaries and/or spouses who participated, going to each and every corner of the world. This was taken during the DOXOLOGY retreat which took place during the second half of our weeklong training.

**Verse of the month!**

“Estén siempre gozosos. Oren sin cesar. Den gracias a Dios en todo, porque ésta es su voluntad para ustedes en Cristo Jesús.”

1 Tesalonicenses (Thessalonians) 5:16-18

**Prayer Requests**

- Thanksgiving for safe travels to the field for Kate, Stephanie and I!
- For safe travels for all the LAC team members traveling this month.
- For the seminary students at Concordia the Reformer Seminary, beginning and continuing their studies this semester.
- For peace and perseverance in adjusting to life on the mission field.
- For health and safety as we adjust to life in Latin America.
- For all the new missionaries continuing their support raising efforts.
- Thanksgiving for productivity in the FOROs happening around the region and new projects beginning and continuing.



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