

Misericordia Activa

An Active Mercy

The love of Christ at work in the streets of Latin America

News from the **Ramirez Family** serving the Lord in the **Dominican Republic**.



Christmas Greetings from the Ramirez Family

With joyful hearts we write you this month to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We pray that you all may take time this holiday season to slow down, listen and wait for the Lord. Let him fill your hearts with His joy and peace. Here on the mission field we are excited to celebrate Christmas with our church family as well as welcome our family from the US. Caitlin's parents and siblings will be traveling to the Dominican Republic. Please pray for safe travels. Please pray for our missions who will be having church service on the 24 which goes against the culture, which says that the 24 and 25 are family days. In the past our churches have had Christmas worship on the 22 or 23. Please pray that our members will be encouraged to participate and be in the Lord's house on this His birthday.

Praise the Lord for the family of Nini and José Luis (pictured below). They were affected by a fire earlier this year. They lost their home and business. Nini is a faithful member but José Luis is not. Through the fire and health problems the church has been able to walk alongside of this family showing them mercy and pointing to Christ. José Luis joined us for evening vespers last week! Please continue to pray for this family. We pray that the Lord may use this time of suffering to show His love and bring José Luis to Him.

Thank you to all those who were able to make a special Thanksgiving gift. Thank you to all those who have helped us get to this point and serve the Lord faithfully for six years. Whether you make special gifts as you are able or regular monthly gifts, we value you and your partnership in ministry. It would not be possible for us to serve the Lord without your help. While we still have financial need, we know that He has provided in the past and will continue to do so again in the future. Please join us in praying that the Lord moves others to join us in this ministry.



For more news updates, stories and photos follow us on Facebook, search for RamirezMissions.

Please contact me at caitlin.ramirez@lcms.org or by mail at 2272 Ramblin Dr. Battle Creek, MI 49014

Prayer Requests: Thanksgiving & Needs

Please continue to pray for our residency request in the Dominican Republic.

During the holidays we ask for your prayers for all missionaries who are far away from family during these times. Pray that their spirits are uplifted and the devil doesn't cause loneliness or depression.

We give thanks for the end of the first semester in the seminary.

Please pray for safe travels for our family who will be traveling to the Dominican to spend Christmas with us. We rejoice to have this time together.

Please pray for the special services and activities happening in the churches. We pray that they strengthen and encourage our new Christians in the faith.

We give thanks that our Lord has sent his Son to join us in this world born as a babe.

Sending a Short-Term Mission Team

If your church is interested in sending a short-term team to help with the work of the mission, please contact me. We have open teams in Latin America during 2020.



Advent awaiting the coming of our Lord

Advent is such a wonderful time of the year. It's the start of a new church year and it's filled with excitement and energy as new beginnings always are. Advent is a time that our Lord calls us to slow down and reflect on His Word, to prepare our hearts to await His coming and to receive Him. Some times that waiting can be overwhelming... Will he ever arrive? Yes! Christ comes. He came to us as a babe at Christmas; He will come on the last day; He comes to us now in the Lord's Supper. On the mission field we've been having fun learning about Advent and how we can prepare our hearts to await our Lord. We made advent wreaths out of recycled materials and learned about the symbolism in the elements of the wreath and how it helps us count down. We also made Chrismos, Christmas ornaments in the forms of religious symbols and learned about the images and how they point us to Christ. Finally we've been using the song, 'O come, O come Emmanuel' and learning about the different names of Jesus and what each teaches us about Him.



A year in review for the Ramirez Family Missionaries

What a wonderful and full year the Lord has given us both personally and in ministry. In family life, this year Abraham turned one and we were able to establish a life and home for ourselves here in the Dominican Republic. Jeancarlos wrote his first sermon and taught his first adult Bible study. He was responsible for a national youth retreat. He has become a practiced liturgist. He passed all his classes and completed the first year of studies. He also served as mentor for two new students. This year was a year of growth in new roles for me (Caitlin). I started a new job here in the Dominican Republic. I have integrated in two new churches, started a youth group, and Sunday school, led VBS and organized mercy relief for a community fire. It has been a full year for us, a wonderful year to see the Lord at work blessing, using and growing us. Thank you all for praying for us, supporting us and walking alongside of us this past year.

To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

Mission Central

40718 Highway E16, Mapleton, IA 50134

On the memo line mark all checks "Support of Ramirez Family."

This will then be forwarded on the LCMS. You can also give directly

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

PO Box 790089 St. Louis, MO 63179.

Or securely online at the LCMS website www.lcms.org/ramirez