

F E B R U A R Y - 2 0 2 0



SERVING THE LORD IN

Latin America

News from Rev Dr Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl Naumann



Jesus for Odalis!

A few weeks ago we had the fun of giving Odalis a print of Kelly Schumacher's painting titled "Children of the Heavenly Father." Many of you will remember that Odalis works in a hardware store close to our LCMS mission in Palmar Arriba. He was the model for Jesus in this painting, posing with children from Concordia Lutheran School and our group home for disabled youngsters.

Odalis is still "searching for the truth" by investigating every type of good and bad teaching associated with Christianity. At the moment he is particularly intrigued by information about the "Last Days," conspiracy theories, and whether or not extra terrestrial beings are somehow linked to Christian beliefs.

Our hope is that the print of Jesus and children of the Heavenly Father will always remind Odalis of what he has heard when visiting our mission congregation: Jesus alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life! Please continue to pray with us that the Holy Spirit will bring Odalis to a saving faith in Jesus!

“Él les dijo: Venid vosotros aparte a un lugar desierto, y descansad un poco...”

(And He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest for a while..." Mark 6:31a)

The last weekend of February and first couple of days of March were spent in San Juan, Puerto Rico, providing spiritual care to our LCMS missionaries, during their much-needed break from continuous work in the aftermath of dozens of earthquakes. Yes, even full-time missionaries need Spiritual care! And it is when we rely on God to provide all of our needs that we are refreshed in both body and soul to continue our work in His name!

In the Dominican Republic (where the LCMS missionary community includes 24 adults and 23 children), I still teach weekly youth confirmation classes; am providing pre-marriage counseling for engaged missionaries; and lead weekly Lenten services in English, along with taking my turn preaching in Spanish at various missions.

My time at the seminary is currently focused on preparing the seminary library for use by students and professors, as well as members of our missions or partner churches throughout the LAC region. THAT is a big job, but God is blessing our effort through some wonderful volunteers!

Thank you for your prayers and support! Pastor Jonathan



Anyone desiring a print of "Children of the Heavenly Father" can purchase one from Angus Dei Liturgical Arts on their website: <https://squareup.com/store/agnus-dei-liturgical-arts/>. The current **Buy 1 Give 1 Mission Project** means that for every one of these prints purchased, artist Kelly Schumacher will be giving the same size print to a school or congregations in Latin America!

Dear friends in Christ,

In our February 2018 newsletter we reported on the installation of Pastor Sergio Fritzler and the dedication of a new church building for Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Licey. God has truly blessed His Word going out from this congregation - already using the young mission as a "mother church" for two more mission starts in the same area of Santiago. The first Service of the Word was held in Villa Dura just before Christmas. Pastor Navarro, Pastor Fritzler and seminary field workers are working tirelessly to connect their youth outreach efforts to families in the more rural area of Villa Dura. Their weekly Bible study regularly brings together about 30 children from the community, with increasingly more adults coming to join.



More than 80 children and 20 adults were present for the first Service of the Word in Villa Dura!



Pastor Paul and Dana unpacking the medical kits



Since the Mercy Center serves not only the Dominican Republic, but our missions and partner churches throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, there are several projects in the hopper in other countries. Four congregations in Venezuela are scheduled to have workshops on "Go and Be Reconciled" and a large conference using our Spanish translation of "Every One His Witness" is being planned for church leaders in Mexico. Here in the DR in the next couple of months there will be workshops on health education, associated with some type of evangelism initiative, for each of the communities around our LCMS mission congregations.

We send our thanks to the people of Saint Michael Lutheran Church in Portage, Michigan, who donated medical supplies and assembled them into 88 first aid kits for assisting people during natural disasters. Rev. Dr. Paul Naumann and his wife, Dana, delivered the kits during their February visit to DR mission sites. We are grateful that the LCMS is dedicated to teaching LAC peoples how to prepare beforehand - and help people through - disasters such as fires, earthquakes, hurricanes and flooding. It is wonderful to see how God works through His Word in difficult times to bring the comfort of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those in need, even as they receive physical support.

You may recall that our LCMS mission in Jamaica opened its first Lutheran School five months ago in an area called Parade Gardens in the capitol city of Kingston. Two weeks ago, Mia Daley, a toddler enrolled at the Lutheran school, was hit by a stray bullet while she was dressing to go to our Lutheran church. She is in intensive care in a Jamaica hospital, with a spinal cord injury and damage to her liver and kidney, and the doctors are concerned that she may not be able to walk again. We are praying that God would have mercy on this little one, her family, and those who care for her.

Topics related to Life Issues - especially those that are already publicly debated in North America - are just starting to be addressed in many areas of Latin America. This May our seminary's annual symposia will focus on Life Issues, and the Mercy Center conference on the last day of that symposia will address Abortion and Euthanasia. Rev. Michael Salemink, President of Lutherans for Life, is working with me and our regional nurse to develop materials appropriate for the Latino peoples in LAC.

Thank you for your prayers, your messages, and your financial support!

love in Christ,
Deaconess Cheryl

Please include in your prayers

+ That God would heal little Mia Daley, according to His will, and give strength and encouragement to her family; + That God will bless His missionaries with good health and keep them safe from every evil; + That God will raise up more indigenous men from the LAC region to serve as pastors in our Lutheran missions and partner church bodies; + That our mission support fund will continue to receive ample gifts to keep us working here in the DR; + That the DR elections scheduled for next Sunday will be peaceful and that the chosen leaders will serve according to God's will for the good of the country and its people.

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

- + **Online at www.lcms.org/jonathan.naumann**
- + **By phoning the LCMS donor care line: 888-930-4438**
- + **By mailing checks to The LCMS, PO Box 66861, Saint Louis, MO 63166-6861 with "Jonathan Naumann - Latin America" on the check memo line**