

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**.

Corona Virus Shutting Down the World

We've all seen the huge impact this virus is having on the world. We've seen the news, heard horror stories about the lives lost and the panic that is ensuing. We know what it looks like at home, in our own corner of the world, how schools have been shut down and stores are running out of essentials. But what does that look like in Latin America and how is it affecting our missions?

In the **Dominican Republic**, things are pretty calm and normal still. The president addressed the country last night, March 17 and explained the steps the government and the medical professionals are taking. In addition to getting things ready for a huge outbreak all schools have been closed for one month, and all borders have been closed for two weeks. Work is still happening throughout the country, stores are still open and life is proceeding as normal for most Dominicans. Currently there are 29 confirmed cases in the country.

The **Lutheran Mission** has taken a little bit more aggressive approach to the situation to keep the missionaries and our church members safe. The seminary has changed all classes to online format. Jeancarlos is logging-in each day from home to participate in his classes. Our Lutheran School has closed advising parents and children to stay home as much as possible. In addition, our churches have canceled all fellowship activities and are sending out daily prayers, devotions and sermons to encourage our members during these difficult times. Missionaries and families are self-isolating where possible and trying to stay at home and be extra careful with handwashing and cleanliness to prevent the spread of the virus.

The government is taking the risk much more seriously in **Peru**. As of March 16 there were 89 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Peru. The Peruvian government closed down all school, borders and issued a state of emergency. This completely shut down the country. Only essential companies are allowed to remain open and only until noon each day. There is a curfew in place and families must register one individual with the government. This head of the house may leave to buy food or see to medical needs for the family. The church is working hard to send out daily devotions and prayers, provide online bible studies, and make sure that all members have food and medical needs covered.

Please continue to pray for us all during this time. Pray for our safety and for peace and trust in our Lord during these uncertain times.

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

Praise the Lord that we have received residency in the Dominican Republic.

Please pray with us for a decision on our request for a delayed vicarage. (If approved this would mean Jeancarlos would do vicarage school year 2021-2022)

Please pray for the youth group in Palmar. We had a break with the holiday and the girls have been finding it difficult to get back into the rhythm of church life.

Please pray for our deaconess students, Leonida, Mercedes, Shelia, Nini, Rosi, Olga, Yudaimy.

Please pray for Jeancarlos and the other students during midterms.

Please pray for our home service planning.

We give thanks for the beginning of this Lenten season and pray that all would be able to take time to be still and reflect on the Word.

Sending a Short-Term Mission Team

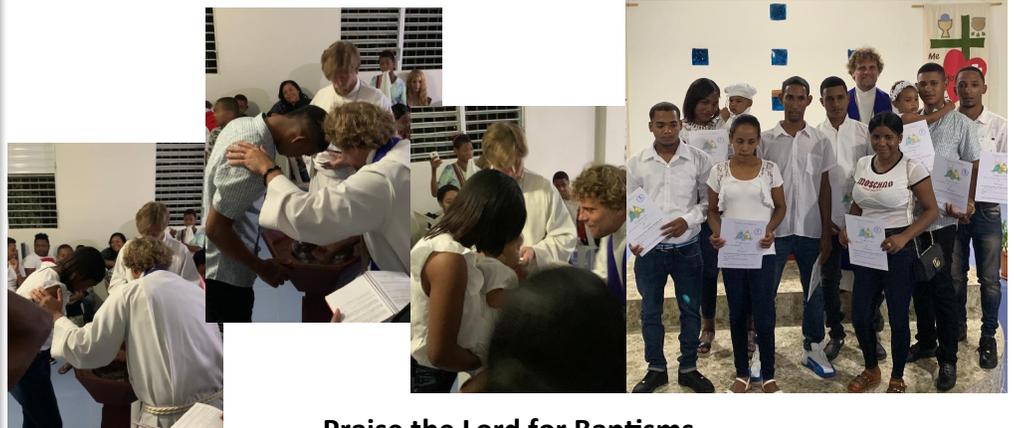
If your church is interested in sending a short term team to help with the work of the mission please contact me. We have open teams in Latin American during 2020.

Attention!!! The Ramirez Family is going on Home Service!

In June and July 2020 the Ramirez family will be visiting the U.S. to see all of our partners, supporters and family in Christ. Please reach out to us this month to invite us to visit your bible class, church for worship, LWML meeting, Sunday school/VBS, missions board meeting or even host a special event at the church so that more people can meet us and hear the story about the awesome work of the Lord in Latin America! We would also love to meet with all of you our supporters and share a cup of coffee, a meal or an afternoon and say thanks in person for all that you do.

To set up a visit email me at: caitlin.ramirez@lcms.org or

Call Joe & Debbie Worden: **269.753.1357**



Praise the Lord for Baptisms

10 new believers welcomed into the family of Christ

Over the last few months, our pastors have been visiting a community called La Piedra. This is just outside of Palmar Arriba where we have a congregation. We were invited to come by the matriarch of a family there who had visited our church in Palmar Arriba with her friend one of our Dominican deaconesses. After months of visitation, bible studies and teaching pastor invited the family to consider being baptized. The family took to the idea with much excitement and enthusiasm. Ten members of the family were baptized at the church in Palmar Arriba two weeks ago. We praise the Lord for bringing these new believers into his family and giving them Christ, the forgiveness of their sins and life ever lasting. Adults and children were baptized and welcomed into the church. Pastor will continue teaching and working with this family. We pray that the Holy Spirit will bring these adults to confirmation as well and eventually that we might be able to start a mission plant in La Piedra.

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