



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

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News from the Rickman Family serving in Latin America

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Letters from Latin America

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” –*John 16:31-33 (ESV)*—

Over the past few weeks, travel bans have been put in place, orders have been given for isolation and social distancing, and fears have increased as we all await the unknown. Many are asking how long this will go on, will their friends and families be ok, and what effect this will have on our lives in the future?

We can take comfort in knowing that none of us are alone in thinking or asking these questions. Indeed, the question, “How long, O Lord, how long?” reverberates through the Psalms. While no one has the answers, we can take comfort in God's unchanging Word. His very Son, the Word made flesh, Immanuel, reminds us that God continues to be with each and every one of us. We are isolated, but certainly not alone!

While we are unable to gather together in person with the Body of Christ in worship, God still comes to us through His Word and thanks to the tools of this digital age, there are so many ways we can all stay connected with one another. God is with us and we all continue to be one in the Body of Christ, looking forward to the day when we can see each other face-to-face. Until then, we continue to use the technology we have to keep in touch with God's people and offer each other encouragement from His Word. May the peace that comes from God alone be with you all, especially during this time when we all remain scattered in our own homes.



Panama



Colombia



Mexico

....and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- ...for health and safety for our family as we serve.
- ...pray for the seminarians, vicars and deaconess students throughout Latin America who continue their studies online.
- ...for the safe return of our family to Panama once travel bans are lifted.
- ...thanks for the grace and eternal promises from the one who gives us all good things.
- ...thanks for improved health for Nathaniel and Mary Anna.
- ...thanks for all who make it possible for us to serve.
- ...for all those affected by this illness.

Rickman Family Update

Due to the travel bans, our family will be unable to return to Panama for at least the next 30 days as Panama closed its borders and shut-down its airport. Currently, our family is stranded and sheltering in place in the Houston area. Under normal circumstances, this would distance us from the work, but since everything is now moving digitally, we can remain fully engaged. We have been in contact with members, pastors and church leaders in all the countries we serve as well as our mission team throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Overall, everyone is doing well, observing a similar isolation.

We are so thankful for the chance we had to visit many of you in person before these bans went into effect and are sorry we were unable to visit others since we needed to adapt our schedule due to bad weather, car trouble and now rules limiting gatherings. For those we were unable to visit with in person, we would still love to set up an online visit and share with you about what God has been doing in Latin America and what He continues to do in spite of the limitations on in-person gatherings. We are keeping you all in prayer and thank you for your prayers and partnership in God's work throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

*Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!
2 Corinthians 9:15*

We thank all of you for partnering with us and making it possible for us to share the most important message with those in Latin America! We are thankful for each of you walking alongside us!

In Christ <> ,

Arthur and Eva,

Bethany, Zoe, Noah, Nathaniel and Mary Anna



To support the work of the Rickman Family, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861.

ALSO, you can send your gift to:

Mission Central at 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, Iowa 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of the Rickman Family." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at www.lcms.org/rickman.