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Update from Latin America



Art made by Esther during an online Bible class for the missionary kids



Missionaries gather from across the region to check in with each other and give an update about their communities

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Two new missionaries, Tirzah Krey and Ashley Lehr, arrived in the Dominican Republic in February for language learning and missionary training
- FOROs held in Panama, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Peru
- Expansion of a Lutheran highschool in Uruguay that allows for hundreds more students and Lord-willing a university next year
- Missionaries across the region are using Facebook, YouTube and various other media platforms to reach people in their countries
- We rejoice in the strong Dominican FORO partnership response to the ministry and our 7 missions



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The last two weeks have been rather eventful. With the advent of the COVID-19 virus we find ourselves shifting our focus. Our motto in the Latin America Caribbean region is *Share the Gospel, Plant Lutheran Churches and Show Mercy*. The church, as long as she has breath, is one who receives from her Lord Jesus, and of what we receive, we give. Mercy upon mercy is still ours as we have the privilege through social media to serve our Lutheran missions and give of what we have received in the spreading of the Gospel to an ever-wider circle of people.

At the time of the fall of Jerusalem, the Lord Jesus moved his Christians in a diaspora to many different metropolises throughout the Roman empire, and consequently the Gospel

seeds were sown throughout. So too, now, it is of great rejoicing to see how our Lord has moved hundreds if not thousands of faithful pastors throughout the LCMS to serve their households of faith, and also, perhaps purposefully and perhaps not so, making the Good News of our Lord Jesus available to thousands of more people. A diaspora of sorts is happening as the Gospel seed is being sown “virtually” to many different parts of our region! As missionaries, we have joined that effort and give thanks that even as we find ourselves isolated, we still have the privilege of telling our neighbor that Jesus has promised “lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age.” What a blessing is ours!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- All our missionaries in the Latin American and Caribbean region, and Spain, and their families
- Our Regional Team
- All those affected by COVID-19, those without work, those suffering from anxiety, those who have lost loved ones, those with loved ones in the hospital

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The use of the internet for sharing God's word
- The continuation of classes online for the seminary
- Our pastors and caregivers



Happy 11th birthday to Esther!
Palm Sunday 2020

THE CLASSES MUST GO ON!... AND MISSIONARY CARE

Since January, Ted has been teaching an Evangelist III class to 13 seminarians. The class is on church planting and how to make the telling of Jesus purposely known to new communities. It is wonderful to see how engaged each of these men are, as during their evenings and weekends they are out in their respective fieldwork missions, alongside their missionary professors. Now with the strict quarantine conditions in place, our Concordia Seminary, under the capable directorship of Rev. Joel Fritsche, has shifted all classes on-line for our students in residence. Thank God we can continue to teach in this way, in addition to the many studying already online from countries such as Guatemala, Chile, Venezuela, Mexico, Chile, Spain, and others. Lord-willing, these young men, as they graduate and are called to serve in their respective countries, will be church planters in years to come. What a privilege to see the Lord work in teaching others to tell the Good News of Jesus to those who have not yet heard!

The past two weeks have been dedicated to caring for our missionaries during this pandemic. Our human care circle has met daily and has helped our missionaries in 10 countries shelter in place. We give thanks to our Lord that they are in quarantine and doing ok. Through weekly zoom check-ins, we have met with all our missionaries together to check in and share with each other how we are doing. We are grateful for our chaplain who is daily sending out devotions to all our missionaries. Bible studies are being held online for women and youth. Our two nurses have also done a stand-up job in helping our missionaries in their various health challenges and by creating health plans in these trying times. Above all, we are grateful that our Lord gives us a purpose in caring for one another and being a neighbor one to another even as our Lord has been a perfect one to us.

← We are very thankful for all of your prayers and support! →

- Rev. Ted & Becca Krey, Esther, Matthias, Natalia, Evangeline & Azariah



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

If you wish to support our work, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Ted and Rebecca Krey."

Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page at lcms.org/krey.