



Group photo from the DRLM FORO. Thank you for supporting the DRLM!



Brunch with missionary women! Too bad we didn't get a photo before we all started eating!

God's plans are better than mine.

Easter greetings in the name of our risen Lord and Savior! I pray these trying times find you well and you have been taking comfort in the words of Jesus. The past month has looked vastly different than I expected it to, but the work God set before me does not stop now!

March opened with the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission (DRLM) FORO. Partners from our sister churches in the United States came to Santiago to join us for a weekend of fellowship, hear updates on the ongoing work, and set goals for the future. The weekend began with a cultural outing to Puerto Plata with all the DR missionaries and their families, continued with project updates and presentations, and ended with more time in fellowship over a team BBQ. I continuously thank God for the good weather and time to be together here.

Just before the current situation prohibited this time in fellowship, my roommate and fellow missionary, Kate, and I had the chance to throw a brunch party for some missionary women! We love living in the same neighborhood as other missionaries so we can spend time with one another over shared meals. I thank God for each of you and the joy you bring to my life! This month Kate and I also celebrated 6 months of living in the Dominican Republic!

Mid-way through March, everything changed. The pandemic sweeping the globe made its way to the Dominican Republic and the country shut down. A state of emergency was put in place, and the president acted quickly in response to the situation. The story is the same as most places around the world now: all non-essential business shut down, limitations on gatherings, a harsh curfew, and stay at home orders (#QUEDATEENCASA is a permanent reminder



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.

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Courtney in Latin America

SERVING THE LORD IN

LATIN AMERICA

NEWS FROM MISSIONARY COURTNEY ZALMANOFF



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that now appears on my phone at the top, next to the Wi-Fi symbol). The country continues to see a rise in illness, but I pray the president’s swift action will have a lasting positive impact.

Most travel for short-term teams and other events has been cancelled for most of this year. Which means my job has been flipped upside down. I am grateful to be able to work from home on other projects and continue my regular meetings via online platforms. It is not clear when things will return to normal (if you can call missionary life normal!), but I continue trusting God that His plans are greater than mine. It has not been an easy transition as life overseas can feel lonely and isolating at times already; I am taking the needed time to grieve the loss of what should have been. Dwelling in the shelter of the Most High and resting in the shadow of the Almighty helps me say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” (Psalm 91:1-2)

During my extra time at home, I’ve been enjoying things I don’t always get to do such as baking, cooking, reading, hammocking, doing art, walking daily in the neighborhood, catching up with friends and family, attending online bible study and church services throughout the week, and spending plenty of time in prayer and scripture meditation. While my extroverted characteristics usually draw me outside the home, I know the Lord is using this time at home to draw me near to Him. I take comfort in knowing that this won’t last forever and that this calamity is only a small part of God’s grand plan of drawing others near to Him as well. International mission work has not stopped before and it won’t stop now! Pray with me for missionaries around the world, that we may continue Sharing the Gospel, Planting Lutheran Churches, and Showing Mercy to those who need it most. Blessings to you all in this time of uncertainty and fear, that you may find comfort in the One who holds you in the palm of His hand (Isaiah 49:16).



How we do neighborhood walks and visits, corona style. It’s such a blessing to see my friends from across the street and stay in touch!



Verse of the month!

“Señor, escucha mi oración y atiende a la voz de mis súplicas. Cuando me encuentro angustiado, te llamo porque tú me respondes.”
Salmos (Psalm) 86:6-7

Prayer Requests

- Thanksgiving for a successful DRLM FORO.
- For our church members and all those affected during this difficult time.
- Thanksgiving for those in the medical field working hard on testing, cures and treatments.
- For missionaries around the world.
- For participants of (at least) 9 LAC short-term teams that are now unable to serve.

To support the LCMS through me, you may give a tax-deductible gift:

Online at lcms.org/givenow/ zalmanoff	By calling a donor care representative at 1-888-843-5267	LCMS P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861	Mission Central 40718 Highway E16 Mapleton, IA 51034
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Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with “Zalmanoff/ Dominican Republic” on the memo line.



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