



But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead...’ Matthew 28: 5 - 7a



**Easter celebration with my shelter-in-place missionary family, Jamielynn Tinkey, Courtney Zalmanoff, and the Warren girls.**

The days continue to blend together and somehow time seems to be moving faster. At a first glance back at the month of April I thought there would not be a lot to talk about, but so much has happened during the past month! First, an update on COVID-19 in the Dominican Republic (DR): There are now over 10,000 reported cases. The curfew between 5pm and 6am continues through at least May 17<sup>th</sup>. We are hopeful that the curfew will end after this date. A plan has been proposed to start re-opening businesses other than banks, grocery stores, and pharmacies that will extend through the summer. The pastors are working on a plan for us to be able to gather together again in person for worship services. Below, find a summary of my various work areas during this time.

The single missionaries in the DR were invited into another family’s home to be able to spend time together, forming our own little family for this time of shelter-in-place. Regional Business Manager, Blake Warren, and his family opened their home to me and fellow missionaries Courtney Zalmanoff and Jamielynn Tinkey. I was able to spend Easter with this group and we are enjoying weekly Sunday family lunches together.

I continue to write devotions and help lead the Beautiful Inheritance group for missionary girls once a week. It has been wonderful to get to know these girls serving around Latin America with their families. We are able to share about the hardships of this time and also recognize all the wonderful blessings God continues to bestow upon us. I hope we will be able to gather together as a group in person sometime in the coming months for our annual regional conference (which has been postponed due to COVID-19).

Pastor Ted Krey, my internship supervisor and Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Regional Director, is currently teaching a two-week intensive for our seminary here in the DR titled, “Theology of Mercy”. This course for our seminarians was opened up to all pastors, deaconesses, and deaconess students throughout Latin America as continuing education. I was encouraged to attend and signed up as a listener. There are over 70 participants from 14 different countries! Even though it has been exhausting to listen to over 3 hours of lecture in Spanish every afternoon as well as try to keep up with the readings, I have enjoyed learning more and having conversations about mercy in the Latin American context. I praise God that He continues to help me improve my Spanish so that I am able to glean from this course and use what I am learning to share the Gospel and show mercy to the people here in the DR.



**Pastor Ted Krey teaching via Zoom**

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- *Patience and endurance during shelter-in-place*
- *Our pastors as they continue to preach the Good News and prepare for in-person services once again.*

**GIVE THANKS FOR:**

- *The pastoral calls, deaconess placements and internships, and vicarages received at the end of April and we pray for these future church workers and their congregations.*
- *The ability to connect remotely to family, friends, and members of the Church*

**PRAISE GOD FOR:**

- *The continued financial and prayer support from congregations and individuals, especially throughout this pandemic.*

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](http://lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

My work with Pastor Charles St-Onge, Missionary Pastor to Canada and Area Facilitator for the Caribbean, continues throughout shelter-in-place. This month, I communicated with over 30 different people through the outreach email program. These are people who have reached out for help while going through difficult times. We hope to continue communication with these people, building a relationship with them while we share the Gospel. Please pray for them as they struggle through such things as depression, loss, loneliness, addiction, illness, and looking to know more about God.



**ABOVE: Pastor Willy Gaspar distributing food to members in Las Americas.**

**LEFT: Doña Maritza's granddaughter sharing her memory verses.**



In Las Americas, Pastor Willy Gaspar distributed food and other necessities to people in our community before Easter. I continue to communicate with the deaconess students there almost every day, sharing devotions and Scripture. Deaconess Student, Doña Maritza has been sending us videos of her grandchildren memorizing Scripture and the Catechism. It is so beautiful to hear these little ones sharing God's Word with us and watching them grow in faith.

**CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!**

These words are true and it was so sweet to be able to say them Easter Sunday amid our shelter-in-place. This year especially, I could feel the hope as Easter approached. Easter is not just a date on the calendar, but a truth that we live every day. Just as the angel told the women to go and tell the disciples that Jesus had risen, we too go and tell others this wonderful news!

Thank you for all your messages, prayers, and financial support. Each and every one of you encourage me in these ways. I am continually blown away by the way God uses this support network to provide for me and other missionaries serving on the field. God is with us and providing for us during all the changes the world is seeing in these days.

*Joyfully Serving in Christ, Kate Phillips  
Deaconess Intern*



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