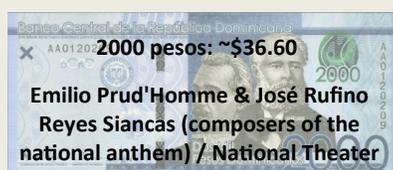


missionaryMAC

News from Erin Mackenzie, serving the Lord in Latin America & the Caribbean | missionaryMAC.blogspot.com

What's on the money? (Part II)



(If you received a hard copy of this and would like to help me be green and save on postage, please send an email to erin.mackenzie@lcms.org.)

The Big Dipping

For five Monday nights in April & May, I was blessed to participate in a virtual Bible study on Sharon Jaynes's *Enough* with ladies (& friends!) from my home congregation. The premise is that as daughters of the King, we are "enough" in Christ and can snub the Enemy's lies that would tell us otherwise. I cannot get a factoid that came up one night out of my head!

As we read through the familiar passage on the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18), our leader shared something from Jaynes's book that will forever change how I read verse 16:

"In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one."

She related that in Bible times, shields were made of leather. Imagine how heavy that would have been in battle! But, on top of their hefty construction, shields were dipped in water to guarantee their flame retardant properties as literal flaming darts ricocheted off of them.

Dipped in water.

Whaaaaaaat?!? My mind was blown. Talk about a Baptismal metaphor!

Satan hurls flaming darts of temptation at me daily, but I, too, have been dipped in water. And not just plain water, but living water, infused with God's Word. In boldly clinging to the promises of my Baptism by faith, I claim its benefits: the forgiveness of sins, rescue from death and the devil, and eternal salvation. Come what may, I can hoist my shield of faith, still dripping from the font, and rest assured that He who now dwells in me and to whom I now belong is powerful to deflect it.





Praises and Petitions

1. Thanksgiving for the successful execution of Concordia the Reformer Seminary's first *virtual* Symposium.
2. Thanksgiving for the birth (and rebirth in Baptism) of Joseph Tion, son of PR missionaries Anthony & Jamie.
3. Thanksgiving for the Gauthier family (Panama), transitioning back to the US (Rev. Brian accepted a call to Concordia Nebraska).
4. For the people of Puerto Rico, who experienced another major (5.2) earthquake on May 2 and still endure daily tremors.
5. For all hurricane prone fields in our region throughout the 2020 hurricane season.

The Facts of Life

As May drew to a close, so, too, did a workshop called "Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated Voices for Life." For six weeks, Rev. Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans for Life, spent his Friday afternoons furnishing LAC missionaries with the logic and grace-filled language necessary to stick up for life, from conception through "natural" death.



Graphic descriptions and alarming statistics were balanced by Gospel's sweet reassurance. In a nutshell, God loves every human being because He created, redeemed, and called every human being.

The final session's closing remarks included Regional Life Coordinator Jamielynn Tinkey urging each of us to seek out providers in our areas that affirm and uphold life. A Spanish version of the workshop for use in the Latino context is in development!

Home Service Corner

Due to COVID-19, my home service plans are on pause indefinitely.

Left: Besides Freddy, the *other* cat in my life is Skittles the office cat, named for her skittishness. A fellow missionary has been feeding her daily while we're all working from home. *Center:* Gearing up for the 6/1 start of hurricane season with a webinar from International SOS, "the world's leading medical & security services company." *Right:* Sunflower fields forever!



Quote of the Month!

"Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you."

—Anne Lamott, *Almost Everything: Notes on Hope*

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