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The trajectory of Tropical Storm Isaias the day before it crossed the DR. (Taken from the National Hurricane Center).

ISAIAS UPDATE

Tropical Storm Isaias passed through the Dominican Republic on July 30. Here in Santiago, we had little impact because we are sheltered between mountains. The coasts had more rain and lots of wind.

Our missionaries and congregation members remained safe throughout the storm. Thanks be to God!

Thank you for your prayers and check-ins after the storm.



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Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Colossians 3:16-17



Confirmation Sunday on July 12 at the congregation in Pueblo Nuevo, Santiago. There were 3 youth and 3 adults confirmed.

Photo Credit: Erin Mackenzie

Last Saturday, I led a discussion on the second half of Colossians 3 during a weekly meeting with deaconesses and interns living and serving around Latin America. These words bring comfort, but also remind me how to spend my day and who I work for, letting the word of Christ dwell richly (vs. 16). Old Missionary Gary at Mission Central has every visitor take a picture in front of our boss, Jesus, a good reminder of the missionary task for all Christians. It is easy to get bogged down in the minutia of day to day tasks and growing project lists. We go along checking the box that we completed the assignment and press on to the next item on the to-do list. These words from Paul in Colossians serve as a re-centering reminder, ending verse 24 with the words, "You are serving the Lord Christ". As the pandemic trudges along, these words bring encouragement.

The beginning of July saw many strides in re-opening the economy in the Dominican Republic. The airports opened back up as well as more stores. Presidential elections were held July 5 which brought everyone in each community together throughout the day. All these factors greatly increased the spread of the virus. We currently have more active cases than in the first three or so months of the virus combined. We are continuing to meet in person for weekly church services. Online youth bible study is established, and we are able to open our doors to other youth in the DR. Our congregations continue to share devotions via text message with their members to encourage one another with the Word of God. This is how I keep in touch with the deaconess students in Las Americas.

The outgoing and incoming governments are working together to make decisions to protect the people of the Dominican Republic. A new state of emergency has been issued until the beginning of September. We are back to daily curfews, for now only through August 10. Going backwards is discouraging, but God has opened the doors to allow us to continue serving and sharing the Gospel here in the Dominican Republic.



HLBP Group Home

In early July, I was able to go to the group home for the first time in 4 months! It was good to be back with the young adults. Since school is not in session, the house was much quieter. Francis was not getting ready to leave for afternoon classes at his school for children who are deaf. Junior and Estefani were not coming home from work at Concordia Lutheran School (next door to the home). Moises was not finishing classes at Concordia either.

The whole family was able to play bingo together. Each picture card was something we are thankful for. This then opened the conversation for our devotion on the ten lepers, where only one returned to thank Jesus for healing him.

After lunch, it was great to see the boys cleaning up without being asked. Moises and Randy each took turns washing dishes and Junior is a pro at sweeping. It is great to see them taking responsibility and growing both personally and spiritually. Moises never misses an opportunity to pray or read with someone from our Bible story book.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Our congregations, pastors, and members as we go into month 5 of limited activities that the Word of God may continue to be proclaimed*
- *Healing around the world and an end to the pandemic*
- *New and continuing opportunities to spread the Gospel*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *My Spanish teacher, Sandra, and her family participating in virtual activities of the church*
- *The many congregations and individuals who pray for me, encourage and support me*



Top Left: Estefani writing a thank you note to one of the group home donors.



Left: Junior sweeping up after lunch. **Right:** Randy washing the dishes after lunch.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. Your regular encouragement through messages and financial donations are greatly appreciated. It is a pleasure to serve the Lord in the Dominican Republic. I could not continue without your help. Thank you.

*Joyfully Serving in Christ, Kate Phillips
Deaconess Intern*



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."



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