

SERVING THE LORD IN

# LATIN AMERICA

NEWS FROM MISSIONARY COURTNEY ZALMANOFF



August 2020



It's coming together! The library at Concordia the Reformer Seminary is a work in progress but will be a huge blessing for current and future pastoral students for years to come!



Did you know that Lutheran Bible Translators is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS? RSOs are organizations independent of the LCMS but operate ministry programs that foster the mission and ministry of the church.

## Happy Summer and Merry Christmas!

July is subjectively one of the best months of the year. Typically, the Julys of summer are full of swimming, camping, bonfires, consuming copious amounts of watermelon and fresh vegetables from my garden, fireworks, Vacation Bible School, cornhole competitions, family BBQs, shaved ice, catching fireflies, and staying outside until 9:00pm when darkness falls. July is a busy month. I have to say, this July is one unlike any other, but I am indeed making the best of the opportunities I've been given while living in Santiago. Good thing it's warm here year-round – we are always prepared for popsicles and fans to cool off in the heat!

Last month, we finally began working in the seminary library again. Libraries hold a special value for me and moving across the world made me realize how much I've taken for granted the five-minute commute to the nearest library my entire life. When I joined the seminary library committee shortly after arriving to the field, I wasn't sure what to expect. We have consistently met to discuss all the pieces that go into creating an educational library from scratch. In the past weeks Erin and I, among others, have spent many hours cataloguing books, filling the shelves, and breathing in that earthy book smell. Progress is slowly but surely happening as we await more shelves and figure out how to organize a unique theological library for our seminarians. They anxiously await the days they can spend hours reading and researching the topics they are daily putting into practice as evangelists, shepherds, and teachers.



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](https://lcms.org/service).

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Courtney in Latin America



Part of my role as a missionary working in much of Latin America and the Caribbean is to explore and align resources among the LCMS and other partner organizations. To understand better how other faith-based organizations are working in international missions, last month I participated in the Lutheran Bible Translators Mission Exploration event. The event is usually held in person, but alas, it is not a typical July, so 20-30 participants connected online each day for a weeklong event. It was an educational week learning how missionaries work in Bible translation and how their efforts center on sharing the Gospel. It is amazing to see how God uses His Kingdom workers for His glory no matter where they are in the world! Jesus tells us in Acts 1:8, “you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Praise be to God that Christians around the world say “Thy will be done” each day to this command.

Who doesn't love Christmas in July? While it has never really made sense to me to celebrate Christmas in July, this year I somehow convinced my missionary family to celebrate with me anyway. Christmas is by far the best 4 months of the year (after July, and yes, Christmas begins in September in my world). I knew this summer would be unique without all the best parts of July mentioned earlier, so I planned a Christmas party! We celebrated like any family would, complete with decorations, feasting, Christmas movies and music, a secret Santa gift exchange, going to church and more! I am grateful for my family here and our small but mighty celebrations as we enjoy our strange summer together. What better way to celebrate this season of life than to celebrate the humble birth of our Savior and the reason for His coming. Merry Christmas today and every day of the year!



A family Christmas photo! The little ones helped decorate the tree and make cinnamon rolls for brunch. It truly is the most wonderful time of the year!

### Verse of the month!

“Te he puesto también como luz de las naciones, para que seas mi salvación hasta los confines de la tierra.”

Isaías (Isaiah) 49:6

### Prayer Requests

- Thanksgiving for continued work in the seminary library and educational resources.
- Thanksgiving for the safety of missionaries and churches during Tropical Storm Isaias.
- For continued challenges in ministry amidst COVID-19 and relief from the pandemic.
- For expecting mothers and the arrival of new life.
- For those transitioning to a new chapter of life.
- For those facing mental or physical health challenges.

Please email me at [Courtney.Zalmanoff@lcms.org](mailto:Courtney.Zalmanoff@lcms.org) if you'd like to help me save paper and be added to my newsletter list via email. Thank you!

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

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