

missionaryMAC

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



MyAnalytics

As an organization, the LCMS uses the Microsoft suite of solutions to keep us on task, organized, and in sync with one another. Weekly, I get an automated “MyAnalytics” email that I come thiiiiis close to deleting immediately, but it turns out they’re chock full of enlightening stats. Hence...

5 Insights into My Work Habits

1. I had 12 “quiet days” (no activity between 7 am and 6 pm) in August.
2. My calendar is typically < 30% booked at the start of each week (but I send 31% of meeting invites with < a day’s notice).
3. I emailed/chatted/met with 61 people in the past 4 wks. (302 in the past 12 mos.).
4. I spend about 15% of my time (8.5 hrs./wk.) in meetings.
5. I sent 194 and read 463 emails in the past 4 wks.

(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.)

I Hear Ya, Buddy

Many times in a familiar Scriptural account, something new jumps out at me. I forget about other, more obscure accounts until re-reading them jogs my memory. Scripture is static, but our volatile circumstances mean the lens through which we read it changes. I remember exactly where I was along the path at the botanical garden recently, with my Bible reading app pulled up on my iPhone, when I came to Ezekiel 3:15 and stopped short.

Allow me to set the stage. God uses a marvelous vision (winged creatures! wheels with eyes!) to call Ezekiel to preach judgment for rebellion—and later restoration—to his own, exiled people. Chapter three opens with God exhorting Ezekiel to preach exactly as instructed, regardless of his listeners’ receptivity. Then, an earthquake rumbles as Ezekiel is lifted up in the Spirit and brought into his target audience’s midst on the banks of the Chebar canal.

The prophet then confesses:

And I sat there overwhelmed among them seven days.

A guy with a book of the Bible named for him spent a full week going *I can’t EVEN*. I hear ya, buddy, especially of late. But Ezekiel didn’t stay there. He got up. He preached. He followed some bazaar-sounding instructions that involved laying on his side, baking barley cakes over cow dung, and digging through walls. He heeded God’s call, and God used him mightily.

I feel as though I haven’t had time to sit anywhere for any length of time. Rather, God has used these and other passages from His Word, along with the reassurances and intercessions of so many others, to keep me going when what’s asked of me looms large. He has called me to this work, and He will use *me* mightily as I heed the voice of that call.





Praises and Petitions

1. Thanksgiving for a permanent pastor for Safe Harbour Lutheran Church (Cayman Islands): the Rev. Gerald Paul and wife Heidi.
2. Thanksgiving for the 9/20 ordination of Rev. Guillermo Levya, a CMSCR graduate, at Iglesia Luterana Todos los Santos in Guadalajara, Mexico.
3. Thanksgiving for the faithful service of the DiLiberto family (PR), transitioning to a call in the US this month.
4. For the Fritzier family at the loss of Rev. Sergio's mother, Edith.
5. For the LCMS Board of International Mission and its 9/24-25 meeting.

STAY and SEE

Conversations about when and how LAC can responsibly host in-person volunteers again are swirling. Until that day comes, I'm beyond thrilled to share an opportunity to **STAY** at home (even in your PJs...no judgment) yet **SEE** what God is doing in the DR. You heard right—I'm helping pilot a 100% online mission "trip" **November 18-22, 2020**. Weekday evening and weekend interactive Zoom sessions will highlight the various facets of the Church's work here through live presentations, virtual tours, cultural exploration, and plenty of facetime with missionaries from all walks of life.

This is for **YOU** if you've ever desired a deeper understanding of my role on the field; would relish an immersive experience but are unable to travel for health, economic, or other reasons; or are seeking a stepping stone on the path to possible short- or long-term missionary service in the future.

Head to lcms.org/servenow to sign up!

Top to bottom: Me with baby Inés and her beautiful mamá, Yoxa; the inedible *higüero* (calabash), on full display at the botanical garden these days, is often hollowed out and used to make things like musical instruments, vessels, and home décor; the back row at the seminary opening service on 9/6—future seminarians?!

Home Service Corner

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



Quote of the Month

"Play is the highest form of research." –Albert Einstein

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

- **online**, securely from any device: lcms.org/givenow/mackenzie;
- by **calling** a donor care representative: 1-888-843-5267; or
- by **sending a check** (with "Mackenzie/Latin America" on the memo line) to:
 - ⇒ LCMS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861; or
 - ⇒ Mission Central, 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034.

