

AUGUST - 2020



SERVING THE LORD IN

Latin America

News from Rev Dr Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl Naumann



Laura

Laura brushed Puerto Rico as a tropical storm, before moving across Hispaniola (name of our island), where it killed 21 people in Haiti and four in the Dominican Republic. After moving across Cuba and the Gulf of Mexico, it became a Category 4 hurricane and made landfall in Louisiana on August 27. The photo above shows flooding in a rural area of the DR. We thank God for His protection and now pray for those in the US and Caribbean who are bereaved or otherwise recovering from damage caused by Laura.

“... él los libró de su aflicción: convirtió la tempestad en bonanza ...” (Psalm 107:28b-29)

During each hurricane season, this mission field is a target for fierce storms. Each one is an occasion for prayer - for safety for our church and communities, and then thanksgiving for being kept safe. As always, we are grateful for the prayers that have been offered by all of you already in this season.

Bonanza is a Spanish word with a range of meanings from 'calming weather' to 'striking gold.' God's Word promises a 'bonanza' to those who turn to God for help and salvation. Psalm 107 illustrates this by reference to storms from which God delivers His people: "He delivered them from their distress, He made the storms be still ..."

For all people there are two kinds of storms; the kind that comes upon us that we are powerless to prevent, and the preventable ones that we cause ourselves through sin. Thanks be to God that He is able to rescue us from both kinds of storms! We proclaim His salvation from day to day: salvation from sin, and rescue from distress. Ultimately, by faith in Jesus Christ, who bore all our storms as our Redeemer, we receive a perfect bonanza, peace and heavenly treasures that no storms can take away.

Thank you for helping us to bring this message to people who are so open to hearing about His bonanza!

Pastor Jonathan

Since our September/October "Home Service" is not taking place due to travel restrictions, we will be giving mission presentations via Zoom.

If you've never used Zoom, it is a free application that can be downloaded to your computer. So far we have scheduled two mission presentations, on Sundays Sept. 20 & Sept. 27, at **1:30 pm PacificST; 2:30 pm MountainST; 3:30 pm CentralST; 4:30 pm EasternST.**

If YOU would like to view one of these presentations from home, please email us at cheryl.naumann@lcms.org and we'll send you the meeting ID and Passcode.

Dear friends in Christ,

Some of you might remember seeing photo #1 in our January 2020 newsletter. This was one of those situations where a colleague who was with me just happened to snap a photo when I was witnessing to a man while we were waiting for our flat tires to be repaired. Now in August, eight months later (photo #2) we had the joy of welcoming this man, named Ricardo, to worship at the mission congregation in Pueblo Nuevo. God's timing is of course always perfect. Like all who plant or water the seeds of God's Word and witness to His love for all, we never know when or where a seed might take root.

As you will have guessed from photo #2, the DR is still in the middle of various restrictions due to Covid-19. Schools won't be opening until November or December. They will teach online only, and the government has declared its intention to provide internet and a computer to every family with school children, as well as computer training for teachers, parents and children. This will be a massive undertaking if it goes forward.

Several government offices are currently closed, including the one that provides civil marriage ceremonies. Thankfully, that office will now send its representatives to private homes for the civil wedding ceremony. This is important for us because in the DR couples can only be married in our Lutheran congregations after they have been married by the civil authorities. So after a postponement of their wedding date, we were able to rejoice with LCMS Missionary Jamielynn Tinkey and her new husband, Rafael Flores (one of our seminary students from Venezuela), as they were united in (civil) marriage in our regional director's yard (photo #3), and then in Christian marriage before God's altar at Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Licey (#4).

Time seems to go by very quickly for us here. It feels like we were just in the US for "home service" - and yet here it is, two years later and time for that again. But of course this time we won't be traveling to the US and so will be missing reunions with many of you whom we have grown to know and love as we share in this ministry to the people of Latin America. We hope that many of you will be able to watch one of presentations listed on the first page of this newsletter. God bless you!

love in Christ, *Deaconess Cheryl*



PLEASE PRAY: • For all people affected by storms, fires, flooding, and other natural disasters; • That Ricardo will continue to thirst for the life-giving truth found in God's Word and will continue to attend worship;

• For good health and stamina for all LCMS missionaries; • That God would grant guidance and wisdom to new government leaders in the DR.

PLEASE GIVE THANKS TO GOD:

• For the ability to teach and connect

to more people through the internet, even when other options are closed;

• For showing His provision and care through each of you who faithfully support us with your prayers, encouragement and gifts!

Tax-deductible gifts to support the work of Jonathan & Cheryl Naumann can be given:

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