

missionaryMAC

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



Do you recall who won the first season of *American Idol*¹? Know what a group of emus is called² or what the Los Angeles Dodgers' team name refers to³?

Wednesdays in LAC are now **Trivia Wednesdays**, thanks to yours truly and the source of 10 random questions each week, my Scrabble-playing friend Lloyd. I was researching interactive educational tools like Quizizz for another purpose when it dawned on me: building camaraderie and boosting morale through friendly competition!

Your turn to play along! Now through **10/28 at 11:45 pm AST**, go to joinmyquiz.com and enter this code: **54421896**. I'll announce the winner in my November newsletter.

(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.)

Spoils Alert

[Last month](#), I shared an episode from the life of the prophet Ezekiel that resonated with me given my prevailing life circumstances. This month, it's an anecdote from King David's military career and its relevance to missionary life that, although it's never struck me before, I can't get out of my head.

Turn with me to 1 Samuel 30.

The Amalekites have overtaken Ziklag and captured its inhabitants as POWs, including David's two wives. David inquires of the Lord as to whether he should pursue them in retaliation and gets the go ahead from the mouth of the priest Abiathar. David sets out with 600 men, but 200 are "too exhausted" to finish the march to the battleground. Nevertheless, God is faithful and grants David and his men success. Everyone—and everything— that had been held hostage is recovered. The victorious troops return to their brethren and...refuse to share any of the spoils with them since they hadn't lifted a finger in the fight!

David, though, takes a different tack, insisting:

"For as his share is who goes down into the battle, so shall his share be who stays by the baggage. They shall share alike."

David acknowledges God as the One to whom victory belongs. So it is with the battleground of the mission field. I'm on the front lines; if you're reading this, you're staying by the baggage (though NOT out of exhaustion, as you daily labor in the vocation God has given you!). This is a good and necessary task. Meanwhile, it is God who grants victory as hearts of stone turn to flesh and the church in this place grows. I look forward to the day when I, each of you, and people from all nations will share in the heavenly spoils of eternity with our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ!





The True Task

The true North American missionary task is that of raising up national pastors and leaders to replace them as the number of believers in a given field multiplies.

Rejoice with me at a [recent instance of this in Spain!](#) At the 10/10 *Asamblea* of the *Iglesia Luterana Española*, Rev. José Luis de Miguel acceded to the role of Bishop on the heels of outgoing missionary pastor Rev. David Warner. José Luis, a “worker priest” (he does double duty at the Spanish Association Against Cancer) living in Valencia, is a CMSCR graduate. Pray for Godly wisdom in his new role!

Home Service Corner

I’m presently making plans to be in the US during the spring of 2021. More details coming soon!

Praises and Petitions

1. Thanksgiving for the faithful service of the Warner family (Spain), transitioning back to the US this month.
2. Thanksgiving for the 10/17 marriage of fellow missionary Danelle to Rev. Carlos Schumann.
3. Thanksgiving for generous contributors who made COVID-19 food relief efforts around LAC possible.
4. For the potential missionaries who received BIM calls/ appointments to the field in September.
5. For Liz Noé, a young man confirmed at The Church in Palmar (DR) on 10/6.

Left: Range boxes are so much fun when you’re a 2-yr. old MK at any age! *Center:* Disassembled library shelving, donated by CTSFW, ready to make its way to the DR. *Right:* Spontaneous photo op on a day trip to the mountains of Jarabacoa.



Quote of the Month

The Pumpkin Prayer

Cut off the top: Lord, open my mind and fill me with your wisdom and patience.

Scoop out the yuckies: Lord, take out all my fussies and frownies and fill me with your love.

Carve out the eyes: Lord, open my eyes to see all of the beautiful things you have made.

Carve out the nose: Lord, help me to be a sweet fragrance for you.

Carve out the mouth: Lord, help me to always speak your words of love and kindness.

Place a candle inside: Lord, fill me with your light to shine for all to see.

Amen.

1. Kelly Clarkson; 2. Having to dodge trolleys to get to the stadium.

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