



Thanks be to God that last month we were able to gather as a Dominican mission team to hear the reassuring Word of God and spend time in fellowship with one another. We used to have team meetings and dinners once a month, but that has been on hold for a while-until last month!



During English class, we do interactive activities to cement the concepts we are learning. Here, the schoolteachers are unscrambling the words to the song *Jesus Loves Me!*

## So, what do you do?

The standard response when you ask a missionary “What does your typical day look like?” is, quite frankly, “There is no such thing.” I’m not sure I’ve ever met a missionary who has such a standard job that they could answer that question with certainty. Every missionary works to advance God’s kingdom where they have been called to serve, but that looks different in every context. Ministry is diverse and unexpected, yet always centered on Jesus.

No, I am not a pastor, preaching and teaching God’s truth. No, I am not a deaconess, serving in a congregation and building community in my neighborhood. No, I am not a professor, teaching future church workers how to plant churches or write a sermon. No, I am not a student, furiously studying up on my Greek and Hebrew to better understand the Scriptures. However, I am indeed a missionary who does all those things to some degree (and more!).

Yes, I do get to share Jesus’ message of salvation on Sundays, during weekly Bible studies, with my supporters and friends, and with those in my community. My fellow missionaries constantly push me to study and learn more as we walk through life together on the mission field. Through Bible studies, encouragement, and education, we teach one another what it means to be a follower of Jesus and how to proclaim his truths in a cross-cultural context. We grow together in Scripture and by sharing life with one another.

Yes, I serve alongside my brothers and sisters in Jesus in multiple congregations in Santiago and beyond. I hear about and participate in ministry happening all over Latin America. I joyfully assist with many projects in local churches, such as preparing congregations for natural disasters, organizing supplies needed for the seminary, and gathering resources to support entities across Latin America. Last month I completed a training



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

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Courtney in Latin America



course on Community Health Evangelism (CHE) to prepare me to be a teacher and a leader in my community using this Christ-centered educational development program. We grow together in our strengths and support of one another.

Yes, I am a teacher! As I hinted in my last newsletter, I have begun teaching English to our Lutheran schoolteachers in Santiago alongside my supervisor, Erin. While neither of us have experience teaching English, we are taking a slow approach, teaching the basics so the staff at *Escuelas Luteranas la Concordia* can begin teaching their students English (once schools resume classes). We currently teach two days a week and include various strategies to not only share Gospel-focused activities with the teachers but help them learn the basic forms of communication in the English language. We grow together as educators in and out of the classroom.

And yes, I am indeed a student as well. Erin and I decided to enroll in an online TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) course to increase our knowledge. A few missionaries from Puerto Rico are joining us, and we are embarking on the journey together to learn how we can better use English in our ministry. English continues to be a growing part of outreach in many of our Latin American churches. We grow together as students in search of wisdom.

No, I cannot give you an answer as to what my typical day looks like. It is diverse and wonderful, and sometimes tedious and frustrating. Missionaries serve their Creator with gratitude and zeal in many and varied ways. We strive to live a life like Christ's. No, we do not get everything right; in fact, we mess up a lot. We fail, we endure hardships, we sin daily. But thanks be to God that "it is by grace [we] have been saved, through faith" (Ephesians 2:8). No matter what our daily life looks like, we are grateful to God for another day to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.



Erin and I pose with one group of English learners, proudly displaying their completion certificates for Module 1 of class! With nearly two months of class under their belt, they are getting the hang of it, and we see improvement each week.

### Verse of the month!

"Pero nuestra ciudadanía está en los cielos, de donde también esperamos al Salvador, al Señor Jesucristo"  
Filipenses (Philippians) 3:20

### Prayer Requests

- For our schoolteachers as they learn English and prepare to return to teaching in the classroom.
- For my fellow CHE graduates and the implementation of CHE around the world.
- All students as they seek wisdom and understanding.
- Thanksgiving for new missionaries continuing to arrive and those seeking positions in church work.
- For those who have lost loved ones.
- For peace amidst trials and difficult situations.

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