



kathryn.phillips@lcms.org



Group home chicos acting out the story of Epiphany as Deaconess Danelle Putnam teaches.

GROUP HOME UPDATE

The chicos in the group home continue to do well. I have been able to connect Francis with daily devotions in ASL. These are provided by Higher Things and written specifically for youth. He is so excited to learn from these devotions and repeats back what he is learning in the video. Estefani has been a big help in teaching and helping her siblings with the crafts when I come to teach the weekly devotion. Ramona still loves to complete puzzles and give hugs. In the new year, we started a series on the 10

Commandments for our weekly devotion/Bible Study time. We are working on building a better routine for the kids this new year as in-person school will not be happening in the DR for the foreseeable future.



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**And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19**



Now that church services start earlier due to curfew, I get to watch the sun rise over the Caribbean Sea every Sunday morning during my commute.

I like routines. They help me plan and help me stay focused on the to-do list. I was really looking forward to getting into a stronger routine in January, particularly with church activities in Santo Domingo. Youth group is going strong, another deaconess class has started up, and I was looking forward to starting Sunday School and having a more regular routine with community visits. Then, on December 30th, the Dominican government tightened our curfew restrictions. Churches would be closed for the first two weeks of 2021, weekend curfews were set at 12pm, and weekday curfews at 5pm. There went my routine (and a little bit of hope that things were returning to normal)! Thanks be to God, the church restrictions were changed and we only had one Sunday without service. The curfew restrictions have lightened so they now have minimal impact on our regular routine.

One thing I have learned as a missionary during a pandemic is how to be flexible, particularly when plans change. Some plans are bigger, such as switching to virtual youth group. Others are smaller such as adjusting daily logistics. One day recently, I was struggling with logistical changes that I had carefully planned. I came across my memory verse for the week, “And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19), and I was reminded that I do not need to worry, it will work out. And it did! I love these reminders of what Christ has done for me, what He has done for all people. As sinners, we need forgiveness and salvation. That is exactly what Christ accomplished for us through His death on the cross and His resurrection. All the little details matter, but they are not what is most important. The riches in Christ is salvation through Him, and there is nothing better than that!



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- The students and families in the DR struggling with virtual learning
- The women currently studying in the deaconess program
- The people in San José de Ocoa that they continue to participate in mission activities to hear God's Word

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- New missionaries serving in Latin America who are currently in the DR for orientation
- The ability to communicate effectively in Spanish
- Salvation in Christ!

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The many congregations and individuals who pray for me, encourage and support me

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. Click on "Service Opportunities."

Deaconess Course- Catechism: Disciples for Life



LEFT: Relaxing over New Year's with fellow missionary Erin Mackenzie and a good book in a hammock.

ABOVE: Deaconess class at Iglesia Luterana Pueblo Nuevo.

In January, the deaconess program in Latin America started our new 8-week course, entitled "Catechism: Disciples for Life". The women in the Dominican Republic have a hybrid class with both online and in-person components. In this course, we are digging deeper into Luther's Small Catechism and looking at parts of his Large Catechism. We are studying all six chief parts: 10 Commandments, Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession and Absolution, and Lord's Supper. Each week, the ladies look at case studies to apply what they are learning to their life as a deaconess. A special emphasis is on creating Sunday School lessons using the narratives from the Bible to teach the catechism.

I have achieved a Spanish language milestone with this course because I wrote one of the units! This was probably one of the most challenging parts of my internship, but with help and a lot of patience from other deaconesses and my supervisor, I was able to complete it. As I look back on when I started the project and when I finished, I can see how much my Spanish skills have improved (although there is still much room for improvement!).

God supplies our need for salvation. He certainly also supplies the needs of His mission through supporters such as you. Thank you for continuing to pray for me, encourage me, and for your financial contributions. God works through you to share the Gospel.

Thank you!

*Joyfully Serving in Christ, Kate Phillips
Deaconess Intern*



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