

## missionaryMAC

News from Erin Mackenzie, serving the Lord in Latin America & the Caribbean | [missionaryMAC.blogspot.com](http://missionaryMAC.blogspot.com)

### Numbers Speak Louder than Words

...a numerical glimpse at nine weeks (August 9—October 11) in the US connecting with YOU, my Senders and prayer warriors that make the work of Spreading the Gospel, Planting Lutheran Churches, and Showing Mercy in Latin America & the Caribbean possible.

**22**

Presentations

**8**

Lutheran school chapels

**4**

Rental cars

**4,438**

Rental car miles driven  
(St. Louis and southern IL NOT included!)

**15**

Beds slept in  
(more on this in December!)

**47**

NEW newsletter contacts

(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](mailto:erin.mackenzie@lcms.org).)

### ¡Meow, Miau!



*Freddy's new spot in my temporary apartment.*

"Is Freddy [my cat] glad to have you back?" I've been asked this often since returning from the US. I'd say yes, but he hasn't actually *told* me as much. Oh, we communicate. His mewling as I linger in bed after my alarm sounds indicates apparent near starvation, his insistent cries as I drain a can of tuna say I had better let him lick it, and a guttural growl is an undeniable stray cat warning. Other times, though, he chatters when I walk in the door or as I'm sitting at the kitchen table, and his message is a mystery to me.

Scripture is full of mysterious things. This side of heaven, our feeble minds can never fully grasp the concepts of Trinity in unity, Christ's simultaneously divine and human natures, God's radical plan of salvation, or exactly how and when Christ's return will come about. And, following a discourse on the marriage relationship, Paul acknowledges the hidden subtext of his exhortations to husbands and wives in Ephesians 5:32:

*This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*

The fact that I don't speak cat (even though it's the same in English and Spanish except for spelling!) doesn't change anything about how I relate to Freddy. I will never stop feeding him or cleaning his litterbox, and you'll find him snuggled next to me night after night. Similarly, the fact that many things about God are unknowable doesn't change His immeasurable love for us. In fact, the very incarnation of His love, His Son Jesus, is "the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints (Colossians 1:26)." We look forward to the day when we will see and know Him face to face!





### Praises and Petitions

1. Thanksgiving for the safe arrival of new seminary student Demetrio (Panama) and his wife Nuria.
2. Thanksgiving for the birth—and rebirth in Holy Baptism—of Isaiah to Rev. Gustavo and Ruth (PR) on 10/4 and Adelheid and Hannah to Rev. Arthur and Deac. Eva (Panama) on 11/2.
3. For fellow missionary Ashley (PR) as she recovers from a fractured fibula.
4. For the newly ordained Rev. Elvis Carrera (Peru) as he begins his pastoral ministry.
5. For the 17 Christian Aid Ministries missionaries kidnapped in Haiti.

### Happy Anniversary, HLBP!

It's been *ten* years since six youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities moved out of a decrepit institutional setting and into the loving, familial environs of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Homes group home in Palmar Arriba, DR, adjacent to Concordia the Reformer Seminary. It truly does take a village: Director Marisol Martínez, Deaconess Danelle Schumann, a cadre of dedicated *tíos* and *tías*, and innumerable other missionaries, seminarians, church members, and short-term team participants have helped Estefaní, Frances, Junior, Moisés, Ramona, and Randy grow in stature, in their cognitive and social abilities, and in the knowledge of their Savior. Since day one, the group home's commitment to individualized care and the sanctity of life has remained unchanged. Thanks to persistence and high-ranking connections, the Dominican government has taken notice, and we pray that the next decade will usher in even more opportunities to demonstrate Christ's love for ALL whom He created.



*Junior (2nd from left) and Ramona (right) learning about the widow's mite with Deac. Danelle Schumann and one of their tios.*



Top left: Learning about the LCMS's work in "a Muslim country" from a short-term volunteer after my home service presentation at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Chesterfield, MO.



Bottom left: My church's new seminary field worker, Demetrio, doing the readings one Sunday. Right: Dinner w/ former CPH colleagues.



### Quote of the Month

"You can live a fulfilled life with unfulfilled dreams."

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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

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- 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.

