

missionaryMAC

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

Code Mode

QR codes have made a comeback thanks to the pandemic. Formerly on their way to being phased out, I see them almost daily— at restaurants to view the menu or pay your bill, at churches to record attendance or give electronically, and at museums and attractions, to unlock bonus content beyond what's on the posted signage.

I have one, too!



Open your phone's camera app and hover it above the black and white grid above, then click the pop-up on your screen to view all of the ways to connect with, support, and learn about me, the LAC region, and the LCMS Office of International Mission as a whole in *one* place!

(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.)

In the Mood

Learning another language inevitably teaches one more about one's own language and about the structure of language in general. Case in point: languages have moods. In English, there are three: imperative (commands), indicative (objective statements of fact), and subjunctive. "Subjunctive" is never a term I learned until my Spanish classes forced me to grasp and use it, and I'd be hard pressed to explain how and when it's used in English, so I'll let dictionary.com do the talking: "1. [adj.] grammar denoting a mood of verbs used when the content of the clause is being doubted, supposed, feared true, etc, rather than being asserted." In other words, the subjunctive mood indicates a speaker's dubious, less than confident attitude toward what he or she states. Notably, it demands a different verb form.

In Spanish, there are certain trigger words that cue the automatic use of the subjunctive. Perhaps not surprisingly, one is *pensar* ("to think"). After all, to think something isn't to know it for sure; it's hypothetical, imagining something to be the case (or not) while considering that it may not (or may) be.

It follows, then, that *creer* ("to believe") would behave similarly. But alas, it does not. In Spanish, statements of belief are indicative! The verb form in the clause *agrees* with the verb form of the predicate. It's like something lifted straight from the pages of Scripture. Take Hebrews 11:1, for example:

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

When we confess in the creeds that "[We] believe..." we don't merely presume that our words mesh with reality. We have 100% certainty that our proclamations about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are factual, and *that* puts me in a fantastic mood.





Hecho en México

Mexico City was a hub of activity in December 2021. Three LAC representatives spent a portion of the month there for one or more of three back-to-back events: an International Lutheran Council gathering, an LCMS executive leadership meeting, and a FORO partnership roundtable. One impactful result of so many movers and shakers in one room was a historic memorandum between the LCMS Office of International Mission and the *Sínodo Luterano de México* (SLM) asserting that Concordia the Reformer Seminary just outside Santiago, Dominican Republic, will be the SLM’s preferred path to pastoral formation. Pictured is seminary director Rev. Joel Fritsche, pen in hand! While in Mexico, Rev. Fritsche also hand delivered diplomas to two 2019 graduates, now ordained pastors, who were never able to have an in-person commencement due to COVID.



Praises and Petitions

1. Thanksgiving for the faithful service of the Preus family, who transitioned to the Eurasia region on 12/29.
2. Thanksgiving that printing of a new Spanish language hymnal is complete after more than a decade of legwork.
3. For a peaceful resolution to my ongoing housing dilemma.
4. For the many battling the highly contagious omicron variant of COVID -19.
5. For participants in Missions Unpacked, who have committed to a monthlong, online exploration of LCMS International’s work in all four global regions, beginning 1/24.

Right: No power = hot glue gun won’t work? Martha (white polo + black pants) heated glue sticks over a cook stove one Wednesday in Los Callejones. The craft must go on!



Above: Dominican ladies night on the Preuses’ rooftop terrace, November 2021: snacks, bilingual “2 Truths and a Lie,” and fellowship.



Left: Danelle & I rooting on our hometown Águilas!

Quote of the Month

“Making the world better for one person makes the world better.”

–Shannan Martin, *The Ministry of Ordinary Places*

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

- **online**, securely from any device: lcms.org/givenow/mackenzie;
- 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.

