

missionaryMAC



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



Mapleton Gets a Makeover

Mission Central, located in Mapleton, IA, announced several changes that make it even simpler to support God's mission in LAC and around the world through me and the rest of YOUR missionaries. NEW in 2022:

1. a combined Mission Central/LCMS logo (see above);
2. a mobile-friendly giving form;
3. the option to make a gift in memory/honor of someone;
4. the ability to pay using Apple Pay, if configured, from an Apple device;
5. the option to cover the 2.56% payment processing fee if paying by credit card; and
6. unique text-to-give keywords for each missionary (text **LCMSMACKENZIE** to 41-444 to try mine!).

(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.)

Create in Me a Clean Heart

It's February, which means that hearts-shaped things are everywhere: balloons, cards, garlands, chocolates, even pizzas. Hearts figure into the liturgy used each Sunday at my church as we sing the words "Create in me a clean heart, O God..." (well, actually "*Crea en mí, o Dios, un corazón limpio...*") as the offertory while members, one by one, walk to the front of the church and deposit our first fruits in the offering basket. The service of the Sacrament immediately follows.

Lots of people create. Preschoolers cobble together construction paper and pipe cleaners with Elmer's glue. A pastry chef's raw materials might include flour, eggs, and butter. And a woodworker knows precisely the right angle at which to hold a chisel against a formless block for something lifelike to emerge.

In the words of the offertory, drawn almost verbatim from Psalm 51, we hear that God, too, creates. But of course! He created the earth and the heavens, after all. My mind was blown, though, when at a Sunday morning Bible study during my fall 2021 home service, I learned that the Hebrew verb "create" is the same in Genesis 1:1 and Psalm 51:10. God's creative activity in Genesis involved merely His hands; everything in existence came to be *ex nihilo*—from nothing. So, too, with our hearts!

My heart isn't emblazoned with Xs and Os or wrapped in shiny foil and filled with oozy caramel. It's stained and shriveled by sin. How marvelous, then, that in His great mercy, God is continually regenerating it as only He can—leaving no trace of the former. I in turn offer not just a few meager *pesos* but said heart as well as soul and mind to Him and receive His gifts in Holy Communion. I love a good caramel as much as the next guy—dark chocolate sea salt, anyone?—but I'll take being marked as His child, wrapped in His love, and filled with His Spirit any day!





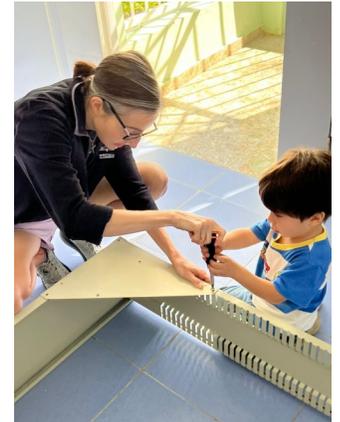
Regional Roundup: Honduras

As is customary at biannual FORO partnership meetings throughout the region, US supporters of LCMS mission work in Honduras gathered earlier this month to learn from the local church-planting team and rally in support of their efforts. Guests were also on hand for the dedication of a new worship facility in La Paz. The stunning building is home to LAC's 3rd congregation bearing the name *Castillo Fuerte* ("Mighty Fortress"), according to Area Facilitator Rev. Herb Burch. It was packed to the gills for the celebratory occasion, but the sanctuary's typical capacity is ~125. An adjacent, open air multipurpose space to be used for Christian education and church events welcomed the entire FORO group for a celebratory dinner on the last night. Several guests joined in a rendition of *Seek Ye First* (LSB 712). We pray that all who enter through Castillo Fuerte's wooden doors, carved with Luther's seal, will hear and live by "ev'ry word That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord" (712:3) as spoken through His servant, the Rev. Junior Martínez.



Praises and Petitions

1. Thanksgiving for the long-awaited arrival of a shipping container full of medical equipment and items for the CMSCR library to the DR.
2. Thanksgiving for a new men's outreach in Palmar Arriba, DR.
3. For the family of Rev. Dr. Abdiel Orozco, former president of the Lutheran Church in Guatemala, who passed away 1/22/22 due to COVID-19 complications.
4. For the tenuous situation in Ukraine.
5. That the Holy Spirit would work faith in the heart of Roberto, whose story is featured in [Uruguay Unpacked](#).



L to R: Celebrating a confirmation at Iglesia Luterana Pan de Vida in Santo Domingo, DR, on 12/26; one last pic with short-term volunteer videographer Scott before he headed home to Idaho and the 100 hours (!!!) of editing that await in the creation of a promotional video for Concordia the Reformer Seminary (CMSCR); my helper and I assembling shelves for the CMSCR library.

Quote of the Month

"To err is human; to cover up is unforgivable; and to fail to learn is inexcusable."

—Sir Liam Donaldson, former UK Chief Medical Officer

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

- **online**, securely from any device: lcms.org/givenow/mackenzie;
- by **phone**: 1-888-843-5267 (donor care rep) or text **LCMSMACKENZIE** to 41-444;
- 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.

