



## missionaryMAC

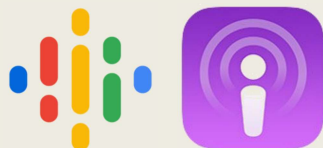
News from Erin Mackenzie, serving the Lord in Latin America & the Caribbean | [missionaryMAC.blogspot.com](http://missionaryMAC.blogspot.com)



Season 1 of the LCMS Office of International Mission's **new podcast**, "5 Minutes with a Missionary," drops May 5! From the description: "It's a window into missionary life...Each episode features an unfiltered take on life abroad for the sake of the Gospel in the time it takes to pick up your drive-thru order or empty the dishwasher. It's fun. It's personal. It's real. And it's always an adventure."

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### It is Finished

Speaking of podcasts, I listen to [At The Table with Patrick Lencioni](#) from time to time. It was there that the "Working Genius" theory, now [its own podcast](#), was first shared. Working Genius is a personality typing tool that helps members of a team understand themselves and others better, enhancing communication and effectiveness. Lencioni et al purport that of six areas of work spelling W.I.D.G.E.T. (**W**onder, **I**nvention, **D**iscernment, **G**alvanizing, **E**nablement, and **T**enacity), everyone has two that bring them joy, two that they functionally perform, and two that drain them.

Without taking the assessment, I have a guess as to what one of my competencies is: T. Loose ends drive me bonkers. I appreciate follow-through and follow-up. Tying things up neatly and putting a bow on top is deeply satisfying. As the Church walked through the Passion narrative earlier this month, I couldn't help thinking that we also have a tenacious God.

Of course it goes without saying that He perfectly embodies W through E, too: He did imagine and speak into being every created thing, is the source of all wisdom & knowledge, and encourages us in the race of faith with His inspired Word. But consider Philippians 1:6:

*And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

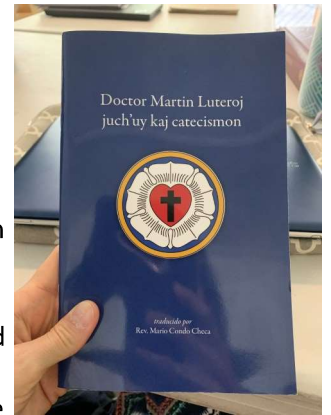
God began His good work of redemption in me at my Baptism, but His Son's saving act had already been gloriously completed on the cross with the words "It is finished," (John 19:30). There are no loose ends. Christ followed through with the plan in place since before Creation. Salvation is a free gift to all who believe, no paper or bows needed. Now, I look forward to the "day of Jesus Christ" when I and all the faithful will sit at *His* table for a never-ending feast.





## Quech-ing Up

As a college Spanish major, many of my classes honed in on the vibrant literature, history, and culture of the Hispanic world. One was all about Peru; I even wrote a paper on Quechua, an indigenous Incan tongue spoken to this day in pockets of Peru and Bolivia, among others to a lesser degree. I never dreamt that more than a decade later I'd have traveled to Peru 4x or hold a Quechua *Luther's Small Catechism* in my hands! Deac. Cheryl Naumann, director of Latin America & the Caribbean's [VDMA program](#), worked with Lutheran Heritage Foundation to get this groundbreaking resource translated, printed, and disbursed. The Rev. James Sharp, Area Facilitator for the Southern Cone, hand-delivered the first copies to ICEL (*Iglesia Cristiana Evangélica Luterana de Bolivia*) leadership at the inaugural Bolivia FORO partnership meeting, held late last month. I look forward to how God will use this tool for the strengthening and multiplication of His Church in the Andean Community and to how *else* He will use my education to equip me for continued service among His people across LAC.



### Praises and Petitions

1. Thanksgiving for a peaceful resolution to protests over rising fuel prices in Peru earlier this month.
2. Thanksgiving for the dedication of a new church facility in Orange Walk, Belize, on Palm Sunday.
3. Thanksgiving for the chance to reconnect with the [Pauls](#) (Cayman Islands) during their post-Easter visit to the DR.
4. For those baptized and confirmed on Palm Sunday and Easter across LAC, that they might cling to God's promises and remain steadfast in the one, true faith.
5. That God would assemble precisely whom He would have [care for the LAC missionary kids](#) at this August's regional conference.



Left: Passport? Check! Ready to visit Aunt Erin in June! Below: How many Lutherans can you fit in a rented Hyundai Santa Fe? SIX (including me), plus ALL their luggage, if they're a short-term team from Calvary Lutheran Church in Wray, CO.



Above, left: Regional Director Rev. Ted Krey unboxing the first shipment of *Himnario Luterano* on Dominican soil.

### Quote of the Month

"Happiness is having your own library card."

—Sally Brown, Peanuts

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