

SERVING THE LORD IN  
**Latin America & the Caribbean:**  
missionaryMAC



July 2022

News from Volunteer Coordinator Erin Mackenzie | [missionaryMAC.blogspot.com](http://missionaryMAC.blogspot.com) |  [erin.mackenzie5](https://www.facebook.com/erin.mackenzie5)

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Help the LCMS Office of International Mission find its next **Asia Regional Business Manager (RBM)**! Do you know a Lutheran with an accounting or financial background who would like to use their skills to support international\* mission work? Please encourage them to review the [job posting](#) for the Asia Regional Business Manager at [lcms.org/careers](http://lcms.org/careers) or write to [mission.recruitment@lcms.org](mailto:mission.recruitment@lcms.org) for more information.



Mission wouldn't happen in LAC without our hardworking RBM, [John Tape](#) (center)!

\*Note: the position is based in Chiayi City, Taiwan.

"Culture for Breakfast" is adapted from a breakout session with the same title, presented by yours truly at Beautiful Feet in November 2021 and to be presented at Higher Things (Bozeman, MT) later this month.

## Culture for Breakfast?

Culture is everywhere. Sometimes it's obvious (i.e. age, clothing); other times it's veiled (i.e. talents, family traditions) or all but concealed (i.e. attitudes, assumptions). What did you have for breakfast? *Los tres golpes con mangú* (a Dominican AM staple) Froot Loops? A full English breakfast? That's culture.

LCMS missionaries typically live and serve in a host culture not their own. This requires a significant investment in language & cultural acquisition upon deployment. Many begin before they ever set foot on a plane through individual study or online language classes.

But just why is it so critical for these servants sent by the Church to cross cultures effectively?

1. Daily life (shopping, banking, maintaining a vehicle) is less stressful.
2. They can't share the Gospel in someone's heart language without...the language.
3. Being an outsider humbles them and forces them to be vulnerable, relying on those around them as subject matter experts.
4. Talking the talk of one's target audience helps one identify with them, think like them, and reflect on perspectives heretofore not considered.
5. Learning about another culture heightens one's understanding of one's own culture.

It's challenging, crossing cultures. Thanks be to God that He invites us to lay our struggles before His throne (c.f. Phil. 4:6-7). The Spirit-inspired writer of said invitation spoke from experience; Paul encountered a plethora of cultures on his journeys yet "made [himself] a servant to all...for the sake of the gospel, that [he] may share with [all people] in its blessings" (1 Cor. 9:19-23). And just what might those blessings be? We turn again to Paul (Eph. 1:13-15) for these hopeful words:

*In him you also...were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

**Making  
Disciples  
for Life** 



### Praises and Petitions

1. Thanksgiving for the countless hours (years?!) of planning on the part of the LCMS Youth Ministry Office, which will culminate in the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering beginning 7/9.
2. Thanksgiving for a new pastor at my home congregation, Rev. Lawton Thompson, and a new principal at my former grade school, Mrs. Dawn Walker, both to be installed later this month.
3. That God would raise up a Regional Business Manager candidate for the Asia region.
4. For an uneventful Atlantic hurricane season, which began 6/1.
5. That grace and love would reign in the aftermath of the overturn of Roe v. Wade.

### All in the *Familia*

The 3rd of 5 LAC deaconess graduation ceremonies took place in Zacapa, Guatemala, on Trinity Sunday, 6/12. Two LAC missionary deaconesses, the director of Luther Academy, and one of LAC’s communications specialists traveled to Guatemala for the occasion.



Guatemalan seminary grad Rev. Rudy Carbajal participated in the service, and his compatriot and current student Luis Jasinto (pictured above, in class) was also in-country and therefore on hand (seminarians can choose between going home for



the summer or serving a “summer vicarage” of special ministry projects, music/English classes, and manual labor). Church work runs in Luis’s blood, which was no secret on that festive day: his dad delivered the graduation sermon, and his mom (pictured, left, with Deac. Danelle Putnam-Schumann) AND aunt were among the 24 graduates!

Right: Members of the LAC missionary family celebrate MK Martin Fritzier’s high school graduation with he & his parents [Sergio](#) & Lilian (5th and 6th from right).



Below, left: Progress on a multi-use, paved sports court behind Iglesia Luterana Amigos de Cristo in Santo Domingo.



Left: I snapped this sweet moment featuring fellow missionary [Jamielynn](#) while volunteering at Pueblo Nuevo’s Baptism-themed VBS.

### Quote of the Month

“Do not be so open-minded that your brains fall out.”

—G.K. Chesterton

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