

SERVING THE LORD IN

# Latin America & the Caribbean: missionaryMAC



September/  
October 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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I regularly see birds, lizards, and the occasional tarantula during my morning walks or runs at Santiago's botanical garden. A little over a year ago, though, I saw what I was *pretty* sure was a mammal, although I convinced myself otherwise at first. Next time I saw it, I hopped on Google. Multiple sightings since—once darting across a busy highway en route to Santo Domingo! —have confirmed my hypothesis that it was a [mongoose](#)! The Dominican isn't known for its mammalian biodiversity, and sadly, multiple species are extinct, so I present to you...

## [Land] Mammals of the Dominican Republic (That Aren't Rats or Stray Dogs)

1. [Hispaniolan hutia](#)
2. [Hispaniolan solenodon](#)
3. 19 species of bats, from A ([Antillean Ghost-faced](#)) to V ([Velvety Free-tailed](#))
4. Common Raccoon\*
5. White-tailed Deer\*
6. Wild Boar\*

\*Introduced

## I Promise I'm Not Palming You Off!

According to a cross-section of Google search results, there are 2,500+ species of palm trees on the planet. I'm blessed to witness God's handiwork in the 45 (26 native + 19 introduced) found in the Dominican!



Making  
Disciples  
for Life 



### Praises and Petitions

1. Thanksgiving for the dedication of a new ministry center in Salto, Uruguay.
2. Thanksgiving for Marcos & Giselle, friendly new upstairs neighbors in my apartment.
3. Thanksgiving for the PR team's many opportunities to share Christ's love and mercy in the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona.
4. For 4 (of 6) residential seminary students still in the process of collecting paperwork and transitioning to the DR.
5. For all, especially the people of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, who mourn the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

### Regional Roundup: Peru

Sunday, September 18, marked a milestone in the life of *La Misión Luterana del Perú*: its first national assembly. The faithful from all three congregations came together in La Victoria for a day of fellowship beginning with worship. The Rev. James Sharp, Area Facilitator, presided over Divine Service, including a rite of dedication for Peru's hot-off-the-press copies of *Himnario Luterano*. Several orders of business followed, chief among them a study of the biblical basis for calling men into the Holy Ministry and the issuing of a call to Candidate Jeancarlos Ramírez (center, in maroon) as pastor in La Victoria/chaplain of Castillo Fuerte. Also on the agenda: a presentation about Concordia the Reformer Seminary's diaconal formation program by Deac. Caitlin Ramírez. Peru is one of three countries set to enroll its first cohort of students. The La Victoria congregation fed everyone to conclude a historic day. Please pray for Jeancarlos and his family as he prayerfully deliberates, and for those women in Peru who may be considering diaconal ministry.



*Far left, top:* Celebrating Lu (center, in green)'s 40th birthday and sending her & family off to Jamaica in style!  
*Far left, bottom:* Sem wife Nuria showing off one of her beautiful, handmade Panamanian *molas*.  
*Left:* Jamielynn & I with two of the Krey kids at a birthday dinner for their aunt [Tirzah](#) in Rev. Ted & Becca Krey's backyard.

### Quote of the Month

*"Hay un libro abierto siempre para todos los ojos: la naturaleza."* ["There is a book that's always open for all eyes: nature."]

—Jean Jacques Rousseau

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