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Mayan Math

There are 32 Mayan languages—not dialects, mind you—spoken in the present-day nations that made up their ancient empire, which traces back 2,000 years before Christ. One such nation is Belize, where I had the opportunity to travel last month and plan to travel again in February 2023. Its most widely spoken Mayan language is Q'eqchi'. Let's count to 10!

1	jun
2	qui'b
3	oxi'b
4	kahi'b
5	ho'b
6	gua'kib
7	gwu'kub
8	gwaxa'kib
9	be'le'b
10	la'jeb

The Most Beautiful Inheritance

The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. (Psalm 16:6)

Recognizing a desire for deeper relationships with Christ and with each other amongst LAC's preteen and teen girl MKs, a few of my missionary colleagues capitalized on a COVID-induced reliance on all things virtual to get a Bible study just for them off the ground in April 2020: "Beautiful Inheritance." The format, makeup, and leadership has since morphed some, but Beautiful Inheritance remains a safe space to grow in the Word and as sisters in Christ. With [Deac. Christel Neuendorf](#) having taken the reins, the group currently meets the first Saturday of each month for 30 minutes of study—in English and Spanish breakout rooms—followed by 20 minutes of a large-group art activity.



I pinch hit and led session 3 of a study on the fruit of the spirit this month (from the [Pauls'](#) kitchen table in Grand Cayman!). Through the lens of "Jesus Calms a Storm," 7 girls ages 8-14 from 5 countries and I considered what we associate with peace, when we especially desire peace, and how Christ brings a peace "not as the world gives" (John 14:27)—beginning with His birth.

Indeed, Advent and Christmas are apt seasons in which to ponder peace. Angels sang "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth *peace*..." (Luke 2:14) to herald the arrival of the Christ child, and the hymns and carols that echo them are myriad. LSB 380:3 reiterates "Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!," whilst LSB 363:1 exhorts the "Holy Infant" to "Sleep in heavenly peace."

Indeed Jesus is peace personified, our Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). But it was the Prince of Peace's very *not* peaceful death and subsequent resurrection that assures us an eternity of "pleasures forevermore," as the Psalmist concludes in verse 11, and there could be no inheritance more beautiful.

**Making
Disciples
for Life** 



Praises and Petitions

1. Thanksgiving for the arrival of Daniel (Cuba) and Oscar (Mexico), two new residential seminary students, this month.
2. Thanksgiving for God's protection during Hurricane Season 2022.
3. For fellow missionary Jamielynn (LAC Regional Team) and her husband Rafael, [awaiting their Chilean visas](#) so Rafael can continue down the path to ordination.
4. For the St-Onoges, ONM (Office of National Mission) missionaries in Montreal, Canada, dealing with the repercussions of a car hitting their house.
5. For peace in the aftermath of a governmental coup in Peru.

Close, but no cigar!

Speaking of [stunning LCMS crosses](#), check out the one inlaid into the locally crafted humidor in the Concordia the Reformer Seminary (CMSCR) library. Yes, *that* kind of humidor. Why not capitalize on the DR's ubiquitous cigar industry to simultaneously display and protect 200+ historic Lutheran catechisms?

The collection formerly belonged to Jacob Schmalzle, the son of missionary parents who served in Kenya in the late 1990s, but now graces four temperature controlled, backlit shelves thanks to the generosity of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Houston, TX, a faithful DRLM partner, who acquired and donated it. Seven of the catechisms were published in the 17th century, 12 in the 18th century, and 92 in the 19th century; the remainder are more modern.

Thanks be to God that these treasures of the faith have found a home where so many can admire and appreciate them, and even more so, for the succinct explanation of said faith contained within the pages of each of them!



Left: 5k! In the Zona Colonial, the day after returning from Belize, with friends Kelsey (far left) and Franco (2nd from left).



Above: Fun photo op with Santiago's most iconic structure, "The Monument."

Right: Revs. Fritsche, Fritz, Krey, & Navarro consecrate 9 DR deaconesses at a joint worship service in the capital on 10/30 (1 had a work commitment; she'll be consecrated 12/31).



Quote of the Month

"You can be miserable before you have a cookie and you can be miserable after you eat a cookie but you can't be miserable while you are eating a cookie."

-Ina Garten

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