

SERVING THE LORD IN

# Latin America & the Caribbean: missionaryMAC



March 2023

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

(If you received a hard copy of this and would like to help me be green and save on postage, please email [erin.mackenzie@lcms.org](mailto:erin.mackenzie@lcms.org).)



It's been FIVE years since I sent my first newsletter ([March/April 2018](#)). According to my email marketing platform, MailChimp, here's how YOU've been engaging with the email version of my monthly newsletter ever since:

- Avg. **Open Rate** (% of total recipients who opened the email campaign): **52.10%**
- Avg. **Click Rate** (% of delivered emails that registered at least 1 click): **18.52%**
- Most read issue by **Total Opens** (the # of times an email was opened): [December 2021](#) (1,366)
- Most read issue by **Total Clicks**: [June 2020](#) (675)
- Most frequent **Send Weekday**: **Monday** (13 issues)

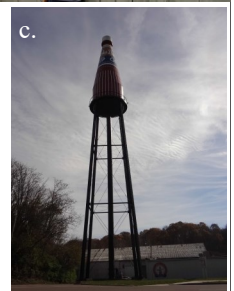
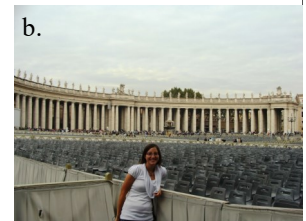
## Good, Better, Best

A few months ago, I [hiked the tallest peak in the Caribbean](#) (the DR's own Pico Duarte—all 10,125 feet of it). Visiting friends in Omaha for Labor Day weekend one year, we stumbled upon the world's largest ball of stamps<sup>a</sup>. My whirlwind (read: cruise port) tour of Rome included a brush through the world's smallest nation-state<sup>b</sup> (by area). And I have photo evidence of me dwarfed by the world's largest ketchup bottle<sup>c</sup> and—wait for it—pistachio<sup>d</sup>.

Superlatives, no matter how quirky, have that *je ne sais quoi*. Biggest, deepest, fastest, northernmost, busiest, spiciest, hardest...pick your favorite adjective, add *-est*, and there's just something thrilling about the experience of whatever it's describing.

The good...better...best news: there's nothing middling about our God. The whole of Scripture testifies to the Trinity's sovereignty, from Moses on the author of the second set of tablets inscribed with the Law (Dt 10:17) to John on the "Faithful and True" rider of the white horse (Rv 19:16).

In Ephesians 3:18-19, Paul prays that we "may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge" (Eph 3:18-19). In other words, God's heart for His children, as evidenced by the sacrifice of His only Son, is immeasurable. It's wider and longer and higher and deeper than anything else in all creation, soaring above mountaintops and overshadowing gargantuan condiments. Through the death of the King of kings and Lord of lords, we have access to the Holy of holies (c.f. Mark 15:38), rendering anything apart from Him a vanity of vanities (c.f. Ec 1:1).



**Making  
Disciples  
for Life** 



## Partner Spotlight: Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF)

As *Himnario Luterano* makes its way around Latin America & the Caribbean, LHF has jumped off the indicia page and into our vernacular, and rightfully so. LHF's generosity paved the way for the treasured tome, currently on its 2nd printing, to become a premier worship and devotional resource region-wide. LHF isn't a new kid on the block; Spanish-speaking mission fields have long benefitted from the now-ubiquitous Bible/Small Catechism combos with a cross on the cover against a light blue background and *Un jardín de historias bíblicas para niños* (*A Child's Garden of Bible Stories*). Lest anyone think LHF is a one-trick pony, one learns without leaving the home page of [its website](#) that the Macomb, MI-based Recognized Service Organization works in almost 100 countries and boasts a library of 1,200+ titles in 140+ languages. Indeed, equipping the global Church is what LHF does best: "Through the mission gifts of people like you, LHF translates, publishes, distributes and introduces books that are Bible-based, Christ-centered and Reformation-driven." Thank you! LAC, for one, is glad to be "on the same page" as you.



### Praises and Petitions

1. Thanksgiving for the graduation of Rev. Obot Ite (Jamaica) as a Restorative Justice Facilitator.
2. Thanksgiving for the addition of deaconess formation cohorts in Honduras, Peru, Spain, and Uruguay.
3. Thanksgiving for my sister Kara's engagement to her fiancée Christian on 2/10.
4. For the families of those in Turkey & Syria who lost loved ones in last month's massive earthquake, and for all who remain hospitalized or missing.
5. For all involved in a planned church/preschool building purchase in the Cayman Islands.



*Far left, top:* Merry Christmas to me! I cashed in a coupon for the Krey Car Wash that expired 4/1. *Far left, bottom:* Missionaries gathered in the regional office for an Independence Day presentation coordinated by Ilse, one of LAC's in-house language institute professors. *Left:* Listening to radio ads for Cortes chocolate during a tour of the state-of-the-art Visitors' Center.

### Quote of the Month

"A saint is not someone who is good but who experiences the goodness of God."

—Thomas Merton

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

- **online**, securely from any device: [lcms.org/givenow/mackenzie](https://lcms.org/givenow/mackenzie);
- by **phone**: 1-888-930-4438 (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.

*muchisimas gracias*