

SERVING THE LORD IN

Latin America & the Caribbean: missionaryMAC



August 2023

News from Volunteer Coordinator Erin Mackenzie | 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.)



The Church Lives!
MISSIONS UNPACKED FOR KIDS

NEW resource for children's ministry, religion classes, after-school programs, family devotions, summer programs, and more. Download it FREE [here](#).



The theme of the 2023 LAC regional missionary conference is based on 1 Thessalonians 5:24:

"He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it."

Remembering the Importance of Prayer

This is a story about termites. I'd prepared that week's volunteer team to be flexible, not for an infestation.

Yet, I woke up Saturday morning to 2 WhatsApp messages:

[10:39 PM] are you still awake? / [10:41 PM] we have been invaded by termites

No, I was not awake; I missed all the excitement. What ensued was a massive emergency extermination effort. Despite the meticulously crafted props, the team's skit for *escuelita* at Iglesia Luterana Pueblo Nuevo was the furthest thing from their minds, but I headed to the church anyway.

This is also a story about prayer. Minutes into the opening, sweet, 8 yr. old Josué raised his hand: "We haven't prayed yet." We had, in fact, not. A local deaconess rectified the misstep right away, but not before Josué had taught everyone gathered a powerful lesson.

Had I prayed yet? Do I regularly pause amidst my morning routine to lay my burdens before my Heavenly Father? Luther is famously quoted as saying, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer." Let's face it: my life and yours are busy. We've all been infiltrated not with an army of miniscule six-legged enemies but with sin, death, and Satan. And yet, "everything...is made holy by the word of God and prayer," (1 Timothy 4:4-5). There is power in commending our days and actions to the One who created us and the time we inhabit. Entrusted into God's almighty hands, our lives glorify Him every step of the way.

Josué and company missed out on what I'm sure was an Oscar-nominated drama but nonetheless learned about Jesus. They sang, colored, had a snack, and went home. I met up with my team for lunch, but before we dug in...we bowed our heads and prayed.

*Adapted from my [second of 4 CPH "Serve" blog posts](#) between April 2023 and January 2024.

**Making
Disciples
for Life** 



Praises and Petitions

1. Thanksgiving that I'm settled into my new/old house and hosting my first overnight guest as I write this.
2. Thanksgiving that resolutions commending both *Himnario Luterano* and the use of the FORO partnership model were adopted at the recent Synodical convention.
3. For 3 expectant missionary moms: Jamielynn (regional team, DR); Karina (Belize), and Caitlin (Peru).
4. For my new passport to arrive in time to depart for Jamaica August 25.
5. For the missionary candidates anticipating fall 2023 calls and appointments from the Board for International Mission.

Partner Spotlight: Higher Things (HT)

HT is an LCMS RSO all about equipping high schoolers to wrestle with life's big questions using Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. Their mission? To make the Gifts of Christ Jesus known to youth and young adults. Whether individually through daily podcasts or YouTube videos or corporately during the summer conference season, teens experience the fullness of the Lutheran liturgical tradition and are,



over and over, assured that their pastors *want* to engage with them. Conversations with HT staff that attended the March 2022 DRLM FORO led to a [July 2023 "HT Abroad" team](#) of conference alumni that led a VBS using HT's [10 Commandments curriculum](#), recently translated into Spanish. More resources that will be HT's gift to the church are in the translation pipeline as we speak, and word about HT Abroad '24 is already spreading outward from Carbondale, IL and San Antonio, TX!

Home Service Corner

My next home service dates are approved: **March 6—May 4, 2024**. Scheduling will begin in earnest later this fall. See you in the US of A!



Top left: Get your *chivo* (goat) just down the road from one of the grocery stores I frequent. **Bottom left:** I invited Panamanian seminary student Demetrio and his wife Nuria over for dinner not long after returning from their native country. **Right:** Introducing short-term volunteer Lynae to one of my Santiago haunts—the botanical garden.



Quote of the Month

"Rest is more than napping on the sofa. Rest is anything that makes our nervous systems feel safe enough for our stress responses to switch off so our minds and bodies can recover and restore."

—Nicola Jane Hobbs, psychologist, coach, therapist, and writer

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