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News & notes
from Rafael,
Jamielynn &
Elena
January 2024

Dear partners in the Gospel,

Our family traveled home on January 5th. Thank you for your prayers for our travel and transition. We are doing well and getting into a routine as a family of three in ministry. The Sunday after our arrival, the women of our congregation planned a baby shower and welcome home party for Elena and me. It was a sweet time with our sisters in Christ as we celebrated Elena and caught up with each other after a few months apart.

The week following our arrival was the annual FPH Conference at the seminary. Our seminary has three main programs, residential pastoral, distance pastoral (FPH) and diaconal programs. The FPH students are invited once a year to the seminary to take part in intensive classes. The time also includes plenty of time for fellowship with one another, residential students, and professors. Rafa participated in much of the conference sessions, so Elena and I worked on settling in at home. We participated in some of the worship services, ate a few meals with the visitors, and have the Venezuelan visitors over to our house one evening. It is always a blessing to meet and get to know more future church workers from around the region, as well as see pastors and professors that we have known for years.

Activities in Pueblo Nuevo continue this year with a strong team of pastor, deaconesses and students. Upon the confirmation of two more members in November, our weekly church attendees are all members, thanks be to God! The team is working on some plans for additional evangelism through visitation and special projects. What a wonderful “problem” to have: the church is full of members, and we do not have anyone new starting the process of catechesis, they have all been confirmed! This is the work of the mission, going out to share the Gospel, continuing to evangelize the neighborhood and share the light of Jesus. Keep the people of Pueblo Nuevo in prayer as we continue inviting people in to church. The Holy Spirit will work through the continued preaching and teaching of God’s Word, as we have been promised, **“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55:11**

In February, we will be traveling to Chile. We are going to activate my visa so Rafael and I both will have residencies ready to go! In addition, we will visit the church and pastoral home in Constitución where God willing, we will live and serve later this year. This trip is another step in this transition process and will probably make it more “real” for us as a family. Please join us in prayer for this trip. We’ve included some additional prayer requests on the next page.

For Jesus’ name,
Rafael, Jamielynn, & Elena

1. The dear ladies of “Iglesia Luterana Pueblo Nuevo” hosted a shower following church on Sunday, January 7th. Here’s a picture of most of the ladies and girls that are part of our church family.



2. An evening with the Venezuelans! Residential student, Jesús and his family prepared a meal for the visitors from Venezuela and we were blessed to have them all in our home. Elena was sleeping soundly upstairs by the time this picture was taken.



3. Our first Sunday back in Pueblo Nuevo as a family of 3 – a picture had to be taken!



4. One of our pastors here in the DR is on leave for Medical reasons, so the other pastors have been helping support at his congregation while he recovers. Rafa has led the Wednesday evening service, but this past week, Elena and I went along when he led the Sunday morning service. This congregation gets going earlier than the rest of us – 8 am, rise and shine!



Prayer Requests:

- 🙏 Thanksgiving: our safe arrival and warm welcome back home
- 🙏 Thanksgiving: for new missionaries being called to serve God’s church around the world
- 🙏 Petition: for the work of the mission, the spreading of the Gospel
- 🙏 Petition: for health and healing for all those who are ill
- 🙏 Petition: for our upcoming trip to Chile; for safety, ease of bureaucratic process, and a blessed time with the pastors and people of the Lutheran Church in Chile.

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Rafael & Jamielynn. Make checks (MEMO: TINKEY) payable to:

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